

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 33

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2012

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Which local crisis  
do you think is  
the worst?

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)  
to cast your vote.

## INSIDE

### LOCAL



Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos speaks about the state of the CNMI government's finances.

► PAGE 2

### NATION



President Barack Obama lets his inner geek flag fly.

► PAGE 14

### ASIA



Dozens of people are still missing in the Philippines after a strong earthquake.

► PAGE 15

Delay in CHC's housing allowance now on 3rd month. **PAGE 3**  
Cuts eyed in number of SHEFA field-of-study courses. **PAGE 5**

## Brother identifies body

- » **Autopsy conducted on Romero's body**
- » **Sources: FBI, police investigate bar regular**
- » **FBI's search in abandoned structures leads to body's discovery at La Fiesta**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**G**uam chief medical examiner Aurelio A. Espinola has conducted an autopsy to determine the cause of death of bartender Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero, whose body was found at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque Tuesday afternoon.

See **BROTHER** on **Page 4**

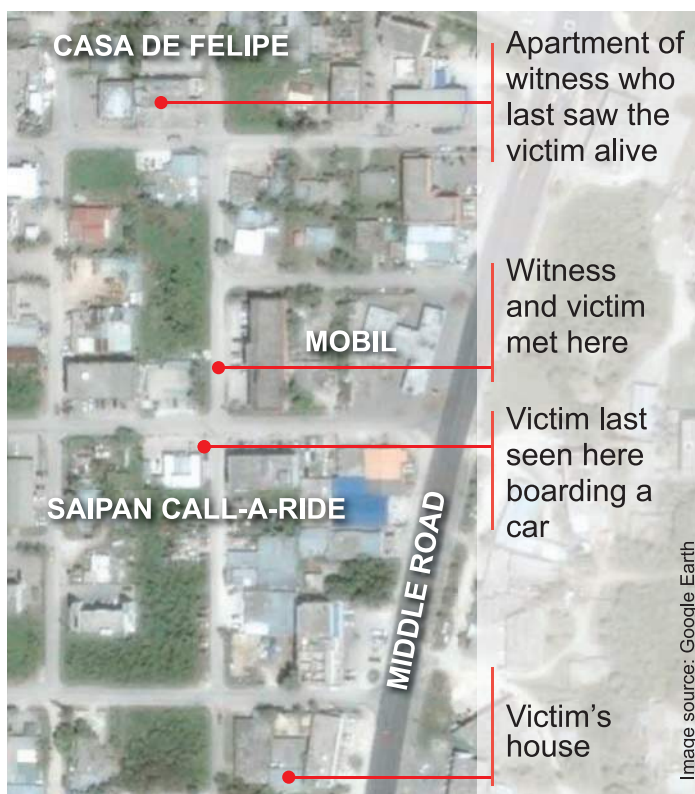


Image source: Google Earth

## 2 firms offer \$10K for info

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two companies are offering cash rewards to anyone who can provide information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the one responsible for the brutal death

of Emerita "Emie" R. Romero, the Godfather's bartender who went missing on Sunday and whose body is believed to be the one found at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall on Tuesday.

Bridge Capital LLC, an international investment banking and asset manage-

### CONTACT INFO

To contact Crime Stoppers:

- Call: 234-7272
- \*11 on any IT&E cell phone
- [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

ment company headquartered on Saipan, announced yesterday that it is offering a \$5,000 reward on top of the \$1,000 that

See **2 FIRMS** on **Page 4**

## REMEMBERING EMIE

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Family members and friends gathered yesterday at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan to pray and mourn the death of a Godfather's bartender whose body was found in the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Tuesday.

Another rosary at the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel was also held for Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero, who was last seen alive early Sunday morning before she was reported missing.

Wednesday night's Mass was filled not just by regular churchgoers but also by relatives, former co-workers, regulars at Godfather's bar, and dozens more in the community who described the 37-year-old Romero as a

See **EMIE**  
on **Page 4**



Two employees of AIC Marianas walk away from sacks of PCB-contaminated soil and toward the actual site where tons of chemical-tainted soil are being extracted in I-Denni on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The volume of contaminated soil being excavated from Capital Hill's I-Denni/Edoni area exceeds the original estimate of only up to 600 cubic yards as part of the ongoing federally funded cleanup involving cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls, arsenic and lead, among other toxic chemicals.

At the same time, a lawmaker actively involved in the PCB contamination cleanup in Tanapag years ago said yesterday that there should be a "com-

See **SOIL** on **Page 4**

- » **Containers of PCB-laced soil loaded for shipment**
- » **Others with lead and arsenic brought to Marpi landfill**



Share the love with  
the **BEST Phones!**

on CNMI's #1 Android Network!

Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • [www.ite.net](http://www.ite.net)

**ANDROID**  
**500 PLAN**  
500 Local Voice Minutes  
Unlimited Local SMS  
Unlimited Android Data



SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

\*Terms and conditions apply



## Local

## Inos reports on govt finances at Chamber meeting

» Business group calls for reduced number of lawmakers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos delivered yesterday a state of the Commonwealth government finance address that was a mixture of good and bad—a surplus of \$1.06 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2012 but possible deficits in the next quarters, as well as a projected budget of still \$102 million in fiscal year 2013 but one that calls for consolidation and elimination of certain government positions.

Inos, one of two guest speakers at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general mem-

bership meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday, said that while the first quarter of 2012 was "good," it "could have been better" without overspending in utilities and medical referral costs.

"If we maintain this trend [of quarterly surplus], we're looking at a good year...We could avert deficit which we can't afford to see," he said, adding that the separation of the now Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. from the general fund is among the reasons behind the rosy picture in October to December.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said that govern-

ment agencies are being asked to consolidate functions to eliminate certain government positions, promote efficiency, and reduce government size.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said it's a difficult task for the government to reduce the size of the Legislature, for example, despite the release of U.S. Census data that shows a considerable decrease in population.

"I don't think they will cut their own throat," he told the members, adding that he himself feels "overrepresented."

Rep. Joseph Palacios' (R-Saipan) initiative seeking to



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos speaks about the state of the Commonwealth government finance at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

reduce the number of Saipan members in the House of Representatives from 18 to nine remains with a committee, and some businessmen think 2012 being an election year would make it harder for lawmakers to pass this initiative for vot-

ers' ratification.

Brennan reiterated that the government needs to run as a business.

Inos said the administration is reviewing the Census data and the issue of reapportionment. An opinion from the Office of

the Attorney General has yet to be completed.

In response to a question from the audience, Inos said the public has lots of opportunities to participate in helping save the NMI Retirement Fund, which Brennan described as a "ticking time bomb."

"You don't need to wait for the Legislature," he said, referring to a popular initiative.

Inos also brought up the idea of a legislative initiative that he said provides the public an opportunity to participate.

He said a government debt is public debt, referring to the \$300 million that the government owes the Fund.

Inos cited some positive things in the horizon, including the planned launching of Tan Holdings' Saipan Air that's expected to boost tourist arrivals.

Brennan, in his message to Chamber members, said E Land Corp.'s purchase of Pacific Islands Club, The Palms, and the old La Fiesta Mall is "great news."

"Someone from the outside still views the CNMI as a business investment worth the time, energy and money," he said.

Brennan also cited the new owner of Ladera School who has expressed interest in bringing investors from Los Angeles and China to the CNMI in mid-March.

## Premature Rupture of Membranes (PROM) During Pregnancy

### What is it?

The amniotic sac, or membranes, contains the amniotic fluid and baby. This sac usually breaks during the early stages of labor and is often called 'breaking the water.'

Sometimes the sac breaks early- hours or days before contractions begin. This is called premature rupture of membranes, or PROM. If it happens before 37 weeks of pregnancy it is called preterm premature rupture of membranes, or PPROM.

### How common is it?

Luckily, neither is that common. PROM occurs in less than 15% of pregnancies. PPROM occurs in less than 3% of pregnancies.

### Is it serious?

**Yes.** PPROM accounts for about 34% of all premature births. Other concerns are increased risk of infection in you and your baby and cord prolapse, meaning the cord comes out in front of the baby's head.

### How do you know if you have it?

*Leaking or gushing of fluid* is the only symptom. If you think your water broke, see your health care provider.

### What you can do?

- Get regular prenatal care
- Eat healthy
- Avoid smoking

For more information or to schedule an appointment with a provider call:  
CHC Women's Clinic **234-8950** ext: **3503**  
Tinian Health Center **433-9263**  
Rota Health Center **532-9461**



Brought to you by CNMI Commonwealth Health Corporation, Maternal-Child Health and Family Planning Programs  
Information adapted from WebMD.com

## NEW PARADISE FLORIST Valentine's Day Special

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

<b>OPTION A</b>  6 full bloom Roses with mini Roses in a basket	<b>OPTION B</b>  6 Roses, Stuff Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon and HVD Pick in a Basket	<b>OPTION C</b>  1 Dozen Roses, Stuff Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in Basket
--	--	--

**WE ALSO HAVE:**

- FRUIT & WINE BASKET
- GIFT BASKET
- ROSES (Comes in Different Packaging)
- CHOCOLATES
- STUFFED TOYS
- HVD BALLOONS  
(Choices of Mylar or Latex)

To place your order, please call 233-9875 or 785-8057 and look for Robert. You can also visit our shop located on Middle Road, Gualo Rai across Shell Gas Station.

X.O

**New Paradise Florist**  
 24 HRS  
 IMM ELECTRONICS CORP.

CELL

**MIDDLE ROAD**

SHELL
FHB
PIZZA HUT

## JOBS! JOBS! JOBS ARE WAITING FOR YOU!

Get hired doing your favorite work!!!

### NMTI OFFERING NEW COURSE OPTIONS.

• Life Guard (USLA CERT) • Building Facilities Maintenance • USCG Captain's Course • Bartending/Mixology • IT/CISCO Certification • Data Cabling/Fiber Optics Installer • Consumer Electronics Repair • Heavy Equip-Crane Safety Course • Cosmetology/Barber • OSHA General Worker Safety • Certified Nursing Assistant • Waiter (Food & Beverage Service) • Practical Farming 101  
And even a course in starting your own business.

Courses beginning first week of February, 2012.

We will assist you in JOB PLACEMENT!

Come to the

**Northern Marianas Trades Institute**

or call **235-6684** for more information.

Sponsored by a grant from the Department of Commerce and the Office of Insular Affairs.



# Delay in CHC's housing allowance now on its third month

» **Babauta reassures staff of corporation's contractual obligation**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Health Center staff are dismayed after failing anew to get their monthly housing benefits yesterday, the third straight month that they were not given the allowance.

Hospital employees told *Saipan Tribune* that the three-month delay is so far the longest they have had to wait for their housing allowance, which is \$600 for single staffers and \$800 for those with families.

The CHC housing benefit is accorded only to off-island hires—majority of whom are doctors and nurses—and was provided by the CNMI government for several years.

An employee, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, said yesterday that they understand the situation of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. with its lack of funds but they are also worried about how this lack of housing benefit is impacting their budgets.

A longtime registered nurse at CHC confided that she

has been forced to adjust her monthly expenses to include her housing expense of \$500, on top of utility bills.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that new nurses at the hospital earn \$13 per hour, while those who have been there for many years get up to \$22 per hour.

Another employee who has been with CHC for five years now shared that the delay in their housing allowance hurts them more now compared to when there were still no austerity measures.

Due to declining resources, the government has stopped paying for holidays and night differential fees for hospital employees.

"With the delay of the housing allowance, we are truly experiencing difficulty in adjusting our budget," the employee said.

## Assurance

The corporation's chief executive officer, Juan N. Babauta, issued a memorandum on Feb.

6 explaining the corporation's financial dilemma and admitting that it cannot meet for now all its financial obligations to employees. Babauta reassured them, however, that the corporation will honor its contractual obligation to all employees.

In his memo, Babauta cited the corporation's serious shortfall in the areas of cash, housing benefits, materials, and operating expenses. This shortfall, he said, is the result of the corporation's "undercapitalization" as it transitions from the former Department

of Public Health. The corporation was only allocated \$5 million in seed money when it took over in October 2011.

Babauta said the organization has several ongoing efforts that aim to secure financial resources for the corporation. "Unfortunately, none of these efforts are going to yield solutions overnight. While we do foresee positive improvements in cash flow, we cannot predict when those resources will be available and in what amount," he said.

"But for the meantime, I wanted to reassure each of you that the corporation is aware of its contractual obligation both internally and externally and

the corporation will continue to meet this obligation as financial resources become available."

## Greener pastures

Some employees are already expressing plans of seeking better opportunities elsewhere. They said the housing perk was among the factors that attracted them to work in the CNMI's public hospital in the first place.

In an earlier interview, corporation officials said that the housing allowance is among

the areas they may cut or terminate if financial challenges continue at the hospital. This plan was not welcomed by hospital employees when first made public.



Babauta

**The Party Place!**  
**POON'S RESTAURANT**  
Chinese and Indonesian Food  
Serving Saipan since 1983

**Valentine's Day**  
**SPECIAL SET MENU (A)**  
**\$18.99 for Two Guests**  
Fried Squid with Salt & Chili  
Sweet & Sour Pork  
Chinese Chop Suey  
Sweet Corn Soup  
Steamed Rice  
Iced Lemon Tea or Hot Tea  
Reserve early!  
Complimentary dessert for the first 10 reservations!  
**Try our All Day Specials for \$4.50**  
Mon-Sun: Lunch: 10:30am-2:00pm • Dinner: 5:30pm-10:00pm  
**Call 234-6907/989-1428**

**M&J Beauty Salon**  
**\$15 - 60 mins Massage**  
**Manicure & Pedicure starting at \$5.00**  
**Facial Treatment \$20.00**  
For reservations please call 888-1354  
In front of PIC Z Building | Open 8AM-9PM

## \$12M to \$30M in unpaid taxes

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The government has yet to collect \$12 million to \$30 million in unpaid taxes from businesses and individuals, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said the reason behind the wide range is that the principal amount alone is some \$12 million but the inclusion of penalties and interests would bring the figure to \$30 million.

"This is cumulative unpaid taxes," he said in an interview at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

These unpaid obligations dating back to the '80s include business gross revenue tax, taxes on wages, salary or earn-

ings or withholding tax, hotel room, bar and jackpot taxes, and excise tax.

Inos said the government wanted to collect all these unpaid taxes plus penalties and interests but doing so in some cases would result in business closures so the government has been working on settlement agreements and payment plans with these taxpayers.

The government has also been filing separate notices of tax lien against several entities so that these entities would enter into a payment plan with the government, for them to be able to settle their obligations while allowing them to continue to do business in the CNMI.

Inos reiterated that the government has no plan to implement a tax amnesty similar to those in 2001 and 2005 under previous administrations.

## Hotel exec falls prey to burglars

A hotel official fell prey to a burglar or burglars who ransacked his apartment unit in Garapan of appliances, other items, and loose coins early Friday morning.

The victim immediately reported the matter to the Department of Public Safety as soon as he discovered the break-in that day. No arrests have been made as of yesterday.

The items stolen include a black 37-inch flat screen DiBoss TV and its remote control, a Bose media center (Lifestyle 28) and its remote control, cube speakers, a Western Digital media player and its remote control,

Tag Heuer wristwatch, about \$140 in loose coins, a box of Hershey's Drop chocolates, and two Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirts in plastic packages. The estimated total value of the stolen items and money is about \$4,000 to \$5,000.

The victim told *Saipan Tribune* that the burglary happened at the Saipan Beach Court unit B-2 on Feb. 3 between 2:30am and 5am. The victim discovered the break-in at 9:10am that day.

The suspect or suspects entered the apartment unit through the back door, cutting the chicken wire mesh to open the dead-bolt. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

**Share the love with the BEST Phones!**

**LG ENLIGHTEN (CDMA)** **\$99\***

**HTC RHYME (CDMA)** **\$249\***

**VALENTINE'S ANDROID SPECIALS**

**ANDROID 500 PLAN**

- 500 Local Airtime Minutes
- Unlimited Local SMS
- Unlimited Android Data
- FREE Long Distance to the U.S.

**\$59.00 PER MONTH**

**Android (2.3.4)**  
3.2 megapixels  
Auto Focus, Digital Zoom  
Music Ringtones (MP3)  
Side-Slider

**Android™ with HTC Sense™**  
5 megapixel color camera with auto focus and LED flash  
3.5 mm stereo audio jack  
Wi-Fi®: IEEE 802.11

**CNMI's #1 Android Network**

**IT&E**  
Life in Motion

\*Some conditions apply • Must sign up for 2 year agreement on Android 500 Plan.  
Single Plan Only • New Accounts Only

**Saipan: 682-4ITE [4483] • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE [4483] • www.ite.net**



## 2 FIRMS

From Page 1

Crime Stoppers will provide for any information leading to an arrest.

“Our hope is that by providing some financial incentive to come forward and give information, the perpetrators will be caught and convicted more

quickly,” legal counsel Daniel Stafford said in a phone interview.

The Crime Stoppers hotline is (670) 234-7272. Anyone with information may also visit the website [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com).

Stafford said that Bridge Capital chief executive officer and managing member John K. Baldwin made the decision Wednesday to offer the cash re-

ward as a means to immediately solve Romero’s death which is “a horrible event is so many respects.”

“Several of our staff members who knew Emie from her work at Godfather’s were deeply saddened by what happened,” Stafford told *Saipan Tribune*. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and we’ll do whatever we can to help.”

## SOIL

From Page 1

prehensive” assessment that includes health screening among residents living near the I-Denni barrow pit.

This pit was used by the U.S. military as a waste repository in the 1940s.

“It took this long to have the site cleaned up, but it’s better than not cleaning it up at all,” said House Health Committee chair Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan). “There should be a comprehensive assessment just like what they did in Tanapag, including health screening of residents.”

Ray Masga, manager of the Division of Environmental Quality’s Site Assessment and Remediation Branch, said yesterday that the ongoing cleanup is funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Masga, who has been with DEQ for 13 years, said the Army Corps contractor excavated contaminated soil that was “more than what was anticipated,” which was up to 600 cubic yards.

“For me, it’s good that we know they are removing the contaminated soil that

they are able to identify, even though the volume is exceeding the level that was originally anticipated,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Masga said the Army Corps contractor is the Hawaii-based Wil-Chee Planning Inc., and the subcontractors include Unitek, AIC Marianas, and APEC.

As of Monday, the contractor has already filled 15 containers with PCB-contaminated soil. Masga said each 20-foot container has 14 huge white sacks of PCB-contaminated soil, and will be shipped to a U.S. mainland disposal facility.

Masga said that soil contaminated with metals like arsenic and lead are brought to the Marpi landfill for disposal. He assured, though, that this tainted soil has to be tested or evaluated first to determine if it is considered safe for disposal before being dumped at the landfill.

It’s not known how much in PCB-tainted and metal-tainted soil has already been extracted and how much more are expected to be extracted. The Army Corps official out of Hawaii in charge of the ongoing cleanup is cur-

rently off-island.

Masga said that DEQ coordinates with the Army Corps and serves as the local agency with oversight over the cleanup.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta separately said that once the I-Denni area is completely cleaned up of waste and contaminants, the area will be turned into a homestead subdivision.

DEQ’s Masga said that the ongoing cleanup is expected to be completed by middle of February.

Another visit to the area near the excavation site showed jumbo white sacks of PCB-tainted soil waiting to be loaded to a truck and then to a container. The white sacks are labeled, “Non-RCRA Regulated Waste,” and the shipper is the Army Corps.

The Army Corps had confirmed in 2002 the PCB and lead contamination in the I-Denni area. The 1.4-acre site lies approximately in the center of a 7.43-acre undeveloped parcel owned by the CNMI Department of Public Lands. This parcel is surrounded by residential dwellings, a boat repair facility, and dense jungle vegetation.

## BROTHER

From Page 1

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Espinola completed the autopsy on Romero’s body at the Commonwealth Health Center’s morgue yesterday at midnight. The Department of Public Safety has yet to release the autopsy results to the media.

This developed as Eduardo Relata, 43, identified the body as his missing 37-year-old sister, Romero, at the CHC morgue Tuesday night.

Relata told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he was able to identify the body through a silver anklet on her right ankle and also by her nails and teeth.

Relata chose not to disclose the injuries or other information about the body’s condition so not to jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

“But for sure my sister was killed,” he said.

Relata went to CHC Tuesday night to identify the body at the request of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and police officers.

Relata’s other sister, Estrellita “Lhet” Relata, could not make it to the morgue as she fainted twice late Tuesday afternoon and had to be taken to CHC for treatment after police informed her about finding a dead body at La Fiesta.

In response to *Saipan Tribune* inquiries, special agent Thomas J. Simon Jr. confirmed that FBI agents were the ones who actually found the body at the derelict mall.

When asked what led the FBI to the site, Simon replied in an email that FBI agents were searching abandoned buildings for evidence when they decided to search the former mall.

“At that time, they located the body of a woman, secured the crime scene, and called in Saipan police,” Simon

said.

He stressed that the current investigation is a local police matter, not an FBI investigation. Kidnappings only become federal crimes if there is evidence that the victim was transported interstate, he said.

“However, we will make FBI resources available to the police to assist them in their case,” Simon added.

He refused to answer other questions, saying that further inquiries should be directed to Saipan DPS as it is their investigation.

### Fundraisers

Family members, friends, and neighbors, held prayers Tuesday night at Romero’s residence at the corners of Chichirica Avenue and Dama Di Noche Street in Garapan. Romero’s brother, sister, and a cousin also live there.

A Mass was set for 6pm Wednesday at Kristo Rai Church. A daily rosary at CHC’s chapel will also begin today, Thursday, at 8pm.

Romero’s brother, Eduardo Relata, said their family is hoping and praying that the killer will immediately be caught. At the same time, they are thankful to authorities for the search and investigation as well as to relatives, friends, and people who joined the search, offered prayers, and provided monetary and in-kind assistance.

On Tuesday night, Romero’s co-workers and friends lighted candles at the doorway of Godfather’s Bar in Garapan where the victim worked for three years. The bar closed early that night.

One of the bar’s owners, Ron Biggers, said they will have fundraisers over the next few days to pool money for Romero’s two children—18 and 8 years old—who are in Bulacan, the Philippines, with their father and Romero’s husband.

“We are working closely with Emie’s [Romero] family right now to expedite sending Emie back home to the Philippines. This is the family’s request,” Biggers said.

Biggers said he and the bar’s co-owner, Scott Dottino, along with the staff are assisting DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas and the FBI.

Sources disclosed yesterday that FBI and police officers went to an apartment in the southern part of Saipan on Tuesday morning, talked to the male occupant, checked his body, and inspected his vehicles and other items. It was not clear yet whether the operation was related to the Romero investigation.

Sources said the man regularly hangs out by himself at Godfather’s Bar and looks like a Bangladeshi national with an “American accent.”

Romero was reportedly last seen Sunday around 3am boarding a green or blue tinted sedan in the parking lot of Call-A-Ride Saipan on Chichirica Avenue corner Kadena Di Amor St. in Garapan.

Natalie Ocon, who last saw Romero alive, earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that she saw her co-worker, Romero, enter the front passenger seat of the car. Ocon said she heard from the car a man “with an American accent” asking Romero, “What’s that?” apparently referring to a bag of bananas she was carrying.

Ocon and Romero at the time had just exchanged bags of bananas along Chichirica Avenue. Before the victim got into the car, Ocon asked her why she has not changed clothes and why she was in a hurry. Ocon said that Romero replied that the one in the car was her Bangladeshi neighbor.

Ocon did not see the man as the car was heavily tinted.

Ocon said the car left in the direction of the Mobil Station on Middle Road.

Pacific Amusement, Inc., which owns many coin-operated entertainment amusement equipment, also offered a \$5,000 reward yesterday.

“We need to get this terrible guy off the street,” said general manager Jim Gebhard, adding that Godfather’s employees are “good friends” of their company.

Pacific Amusement and Bridge Capital separately expressed hope that the cash reward would play a part in getting those people with information to come out and work with the authorities to give justice to Romero, 37.

Both are optimistic that the perpetrator will be found, despite the cash rewards not being able to entice community members with information on the disappearance of the Luhk sisters who disappeared last year.

“Just because we haven’t had success with that particular case doesn’t mean that we’re going to stop trying,” said Stafford.

## EMIE

From Page 1

devoted mother, a generous sibling, a loving daughter, a dependable employee, and a sweet friend.

“She is very kind-hearted and loving. She would do everything for her children. What happened to her was a big shock for her family and friends here and in the Philippines,” said Eduardo Relata, Romero’s oldest sibling, who works at Advance X-terminators.

A native of Plaridel, Bulacan, Romero is the third of eight children. She first arrived on Saipan in 1990 and worked for many employers here. She even got married at the Philippine Consulate General here. Her husband now lives in the Philippines with their two children.

Romero lived in Garapan in an apartment that she shared with her brother Relata and another sister, Lhet. Relata shared in an interview yesterday that due to their different work schedules, their family is only able to bond during occasions when they would hang out and sing videoke and just have a good time.

According to Relata, it was very difficult for Romero to be away from her 17-year-old and 8-year-old daughters. “That’s why she was always in the computer chatting with them,” he recounted.

He thinks he would miss Romero’s smile the most. “Her smile can soften anyone’s heart. I think that’s one reason why she has so many friends who care for her and have expressed their support to us at this time.”

Ron Biggers and Scott Dottino, owners of Godfather’s Bar where Romero worked for three years, said it is hard to lose one of their staff in this manner.

“If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane, your Godfather’s family would walk right up to heaven and bring you home again. You will always be part of us,” they said in a statement.

Dottino, who described Romero as a “steady and reliable” employee, knew right away that something was wrong when she didn’t show up on time for her 5pm shift at the bar.

“Since her disappearance, the atmosphere here at Godfather’s has been solemn, very sad, and with disbelief,” said Dottino, adding that Romero was “one of the most loyal employees” at the bar.

According to Biggers, there are people who display “their hangups” in life “but with Romero, it was hard to tell because she’s always there smiling.”

Gebhard added, “We just hope we get this guy. And we will as a community.”

### Justice for Romero

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos Inos expressed “sincere condolences” yesterday to the family of Romero and assured that the administration would see to it that justice will be served in this case.

“This shouldn’t have happened,” he said, as he called on the public to be more vigilant and help in any way they can to help law enforcement agencies in preventing and solving crimes.

Frank Camacho of the Saipan Neighborhood Watch, a guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce meeting, talked about what individual community members could do to help curb crimes, including reporting any suspicious activity to authorities and “getting to know your neighbors.”

“Make your neighborhood livable,” he added. *(With Haidee V. Eugenio)*

“We’re working really close with her family, making sure they’re comforted and are taken care of,” said Biggers, noting that Godfather’s will shoulder the cost of repatriating Romero’s body to the Philippines.

They will do so, he said, once the Department of Public Safety and the Attorney General’s Office give the go-signal to release the body.

Biggers added that many of their regulars and other community members have given donations at the bar for Romero’s family, prompting them to put a donation box. Several groups are also planning to do fundraisers to benefit Romero’s family.

Melody Marabe, a Godfather’s staff for six years, said Romero was a jolly and very sweet person. “She can’t live without her cell phone because she always sends text messages to her family. She is also one of the few from whom I ask for advice. She’s beautiful inside and out.”

Rudylyn Garcia, who has been working at the bar for less than a year, said she and Romero would watch movies at the theater on their days off. “She’s always on time, super sweet, and she’s the person I would talk to about my boyfriend. Until now, I still couldn’t begin to understand why this had to happen.”

Victoria Nishida, who worked with Romero at GIG discotheque, said Romero is very hardworking employee and a devoted mother.

“Whenever I had meetings with our bosses, I would leave my own kids to her and they have a good relationship,” said Nishida, a teacher at Hopwood Jr. High School.

In fact, it was Nishida’s daughter Midori who found out through flyers and on Facebook that Romero was missing. “She called me right away and said, Mom, I think Tita Emie’s missing,” said the teary-eyed Nishida.

Relata expressed his “heart-felt gratitude” for Romero’s Godfather’s family, her other friends and former co-workers, whose support make it possible for them to cope. “I know that the Lord will reward their good heart.”

When Romero went missing, Relata said they urged everybody to pray hard that she would be found immediately. “It’s been difficult, but we’re still grateful that we found her body,” he said.

Relata is once again calling on the community, this time to pray that Romero’s killer be found soon.

“I hope they join us in prayer so that justice will be served for my sister,” he said.



**VISITING GROUP**

Northern Marianas College staff take time for a group photo after welcoming Shogen Junior College president Sogen S. Yamakawa, standing, twelfth from left, college representatives and students from Japan. During the visit, the benefits of having more cultural and academic exchanges between both institutions were discussed. The visiting group from Japan was also given a tour of the NMC campus.

NMC

## Drastic cut eyed in number of SHEFA field-of-study courses

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance administrator Henry Hofschneider will propose revamping the field-of-study program to reduce the number of courses covered by the program.

Field-of-study is one of the three programs offered by SHEFA. It provides \$1,000 in financial aid per semester to both off- and on-island students who pursue specific courses covered by the grant program. Right now, the field of study program covers more than 20 courses.

Hofschneider disclosed that he will recommend reducing

this to just five "in-demand" courses and degree programs: teachers, counselors, nurses, doctors, and other medical-related field of interests. He said these courses fit the current and future demand of the CNMI workforce.

Because this revamp will require changes in the current SHEFA policy, Hofschneider will consult the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Workforce Investment Agency, and the private sector before finalizing his recommendation. The objective, he said, is to gather the input of these parties who know the demands of the workforce today and in the future.

Hofschneider hopes that the

board will support his proposal and he targets implementing these changes in full before the end of this year.

Besides the field-of-study program, SHEFA also administers the grant-in-aid and incentive programs.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that a student who qualifies for the grant-in-aid financial award may also qualify for the field-of-study program if the course he or she is taking is among the special field-of-study covered by policy. Any scholar may also qualify for the incentive award if he or she maintains the required grade point average. The incentive award is automatically given to scholars who meet the required GPA.

Hofschneider confirmed that many of the current SHEFA scholars receive more than one financial award. Due to declining poker revenues, Hofschneider will recommend changing SHEFA policy to limit each scholar to only one financial award.

Each fiscal year, SHEFA is appropriated \$3 million for its three scholarship programs and \$100,000 for the agency's operation and all others. SHEFA's main funding source is revenue from the license fees of poker arcades

on Saipan. That funding sources is also drying up as many poker arcades have closed down or did not renew their licenses.

In spring 2011, SHEFA drastically cut the amounts of its financial awards to students.

Hofschneider said that further cuts in the awards may happen anytime if poker revenues continue to drop. To date, less than 500 poker machines are expected to renew their licenses this year, he added.

## GTA a step closer to entering the CNMI telecom market

» **Company awaits CPUC re-establishment for formal action on expansion**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

GTA TeleGuam announced yesterday that it is one step closer to obtaining a certificate of authority to expand its business to the Commonwealth.

However, the approval of this certificate lies with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, which is currently dormant due to a lack of commissioners. The commission officially stopped business beginning Jan. 30.

In its last meeting on Jan. 28, commission chair Viola Alepuyo issued two separate orders related to GTA issues.

In the first order, Alepuyo indicated that upon the re-establishment of a quorum, the commission's hearing officer is directed to proceed with the phase two activities set forth in Section 1 of the Certificate Order, including consideration and ruling on IT&E's request to either intervene or participate in these phase two activities. The commission indicated that these phase two proceedings are not intended to either qualify or di-

minish GTA's certificate.

In the second order, it ruled that GTA's request to negotiate a comprehensive interconnection agreement with IT&E constitutes a bona fide request under federal law and, upon re-establishment of quorum, it directed the hearing examiner to proceed with the "inquiry" to determine whether IT&E's rural exemption will be terminated or not.

According to Daniel Tydingco, executive vice president of regulatory, external and legal affairs at GTA, the approval of the application would allow GTA to become a local exchange carrier on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

"We've been working extremely hard to ensure our application is processed legally, properly and in accordance with procedures. While we await the final approval of our application by the CPUC, our goal is clear that we intend to bring competitive services, products and prices to our neighbors in the north and for the benefit of all our customers," he said in a statement.

The company first submitted its application in March 2011.

# Valentine's Day

♥ **One Dozen Red Roses Arrangements**  
Regular Dozen Special Dozen Deluxe Dozen  
All arrangements come with a 10" Bear and Mylar Balloon.

♥ **Half Dozen Red Roses Arrangements**  
Regular Deluxe with a 10" Bear and Mylar Balloon.

♥ **Three Roses Arrangements**  
With a 6" Bear and Mylar Balloon

Come in and see a selection of various valentine's gifts  
Other arrangements available: wine baskets, fruits & wine, chocolates and more.....

**Design Florist** Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan

**STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 8:30AM-6:00PM**  
**Sunday-February 12, 2012, 10:00AM-3:00PM**

For more information, please call 235-1414 • 234-5593 or 235-8572

**ORDER NOW!**

## Hana Health Massage

### Suffering from back pain?

### We can help!

Oil Body Massage	\$15.00/hour
Foot Massage	\$15.00/hour
Manicure	\$5.00
Foot Spa (with medicine)	\$10.00

**OPERATION:**  
11:00am to 11:00pm  
(Manicure/Foot Spa)  
11:00am to 2:00am  
(Massage)

**We offer 20% discount on original nail art to anyone who is celebrating their birthday. (Valid ID/Driver's license required)**

**1st Floor, MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa • Tel: 285-2010**

## Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts



**OUR 10th YEAR on SAIPAN!**  
**Ballet Classes**  
for All Ages from 3 years old to Adults

**We offer Family Discounts!**

**Call 483-6271,**

to enroll or arrange for FREE TRIAL or send an e-mail: glushkosacademy@yahoo.com

We are located on the 2nd floor of Marianas Business Plaza  
Check our page on Facebook!

## IMMIGRATION LAW

**Bruce L. Mailman**  
**Maya B. Kara**

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

**Call for Appointment**  
**(670) 233-0081**

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC  
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.  
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan



# NMC opens hiring of off-island faculty to teach courses online

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is now hiring faculty members who are located outside of the Commonwealth to teach courses at the college via the Internet.

College president Sharon Y. Hart confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* just before her business trip last week that the college has hired for this semester a Florida-based instructor to teach a business management class online.

She did not identify the new faculty member but said that this person is being paid at the same rate as those who teach on campus.

"We have one faculty from as far away as Florida teaching an online course for us. [But] we are not paying more for an off-island [instructor]," she said.

NMC pays faculty members with bachelor's degrees \$500 per credit class. Those with master's degrees get \$700 per credit class.

According to Hart, it is NMC's goal to increase the number of its online courses and that hiring qualified off-island faculty through the same process will open the door of opportunities for the college.

Hart assured that the hiring of the Florida-based instructor is in accordance with college policies.

"This is the beauty of online. We can hire folks from anywhere and everywhere and this is something we will continue to look at and explore," she said.

She disclosed that the college is also looking at partnering with the University of North Dakota, which, according to Hart, has one of the most out-

standing nursing programs in the country.

For many years now, NMC has been finding it difficult to hire more nursing instructors because they typically demand higher salaries and require certain educational background and experiences.

"If we have difficulty in finding faculty members for traditional courses [like nursing], we can partner with them and we can ask qualified faculty from there to teach our students [through online]," she said.

This method, she said, may free some nursing faculty of their workload and they could concentrate on clinical sessions, which are critical to the nursing program.

Just recently, Hart announced NMC's partnership with ed2go, allowing the college to offer over 300 online courses.

Starting this spring semester, some non-instructional college

employees had begun teaching classes within their 40-hour

work schedule in order to save the college on costs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Cancer Association vice president Alex Sablan, seated center, is joined by over 20 individuals during the group's annual general membership meeting held at the CCA conference room at the Gualo Rai Plaza Building last Jan. 31.

## Anti-cancer group elects new board members

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Cancer Association elected its 2012 board members during its annual general membership meeting held at the CCA conference room at the Gualo Rai Plaza Building on Jan. 31.

Lauri Ogumoro, Dave Rosario, and former CCA program manager Tina Sablan were elected at the meeting that was attended by over 20.

Ogumoro, who filled the post left by former board member

Robert Torres, was re-elected while Rosario and Sablan, who are new to the board, replaced Bobbi Grizzard and Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero.

Grizzard served on the CCA board for over 10 years, since the program started, while Deleon Guerrero finished a two-year term.

"On behalf of the [CCA], we would like to express our big thanks to Bobbi and Jocelyn for the hard work and commitment they put into making CCA a better place for the Commonwealth," said CCA assistant program man-

ager Naomi Benjamin.

At the meeting, vice president Alex Sablan also presented the president's report since CCA president Bud White was off-island.

He reported that CCA provided services in 2011 to 66 clients, 35 of them new clients. Services included dietary supplements such as Ensure, Glucerna, vitamins, and fresh milk; hospital equipment loans such as hospital beds, oxygen concentrators, and wheelchairs; fruits and vegetable vouchers; personal care items; and mastectomy bras.

Alex Sablan noted that the organization was instrumental in the certification of over 20 volunteers under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Outreach Project in August 2011.

"These volunteers went through six weeks of rigorous training being educated about the importance of early detection and prevention that will assist them in doing outreach in the community," said Benjamin.

Meanwhile, board treasurer Maggie Camacho reported on CCA's financials in 2011. She said CCA spent only 94 percent of its budget. Its total assets and net proceeds are at \$156,675 and \$67,000 respectively.

Alex Sablan expressed appreciation to all sponsors, volunteers, and donors for their monetary and in-kind donation in 2011 and looks forward to working with them this year.

CCA is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI and the region.



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-006, REV. #1

### PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE FOR POWER PLANT 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is resoliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project Management to include Design and Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor, material and logistics associated with the Project Management Services including Design and Onsite Construction Management for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project. Tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies (including US EPA and/or US DOT). It is preferred that the contractor have the in-house capability and qualifications to perform all the functions required (i.e. - Project management to include Design and Construction Management services) and not subcontract any part to third party vendors.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8-inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8-inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe piggings, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes. Design engineers are required to obtain the relevant licenses in CNMI, as per local professional licensing rules and regulations, details of which are available on the webpage, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Court. The project is funded primarily by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs.

The Revised Scope-of-Work (SOW) will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) (CHST-Chamorro Standard Time), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays. All other documentation can be downloaded from the website, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

The response to this RFP must be received with the title "PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE" and shall only be sent to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via e-mail to [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail to [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org) no later than **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time and the equivalent time of **Tuesday February 28, 2012, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. Late submissions and other means of submission will not be considered. A return receipt for the email must be requested and received by the proposer to ensure that the email transmission has been received by the deadline, by CUC.

All inquiries and clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM CHST**, and the equivalent time of Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org); and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org). CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation. All interested parties including those who have participated in the recently closed RFP are requested to also register through the website - <http://cuccnmi.net/> or e-mailing their request to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org), no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time or the equivalent time of **Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. CUC requires all the proposers to send their questions in writing so that the responses can also be made available to all the interested vendors, well in time.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director

## PUBLIC NOTICE



Arleen E. Dycoco, former manager and accountant for BDC Consultancy (Saipan) LLC, is no longer employed, affiliated, or associated in any way or manner with BDC Consultancy (Saipan) LLC. Any contracts, agreements, receipts of payments, for any services in the name of BDC Consultancy (Saipan) LLC, made after November 23, 2011 are null and void. If you have any questions or concern, please call 234-8801.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhic@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhic@nmhc.gov.mp)  
Website: <http://www.nmhic.gov.mp>

### INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012 \* TIME: 10:00 AM 2:00 PM

AMENDMENT #03  
NMHC IFB 2012-001

"CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER PATHWAY FOR SINAPALO CHILDREN'S PARK"

Proposal packets will be available on February 1, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and NMHC's Rota Field Office, Rota, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2012, at the proposed project site located in Sinapalo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

This amendment shall reflect the corrected time on the bid submission for the aforementioned project. Bid submission date is on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 - 2:00 p.m.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane  
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Division of Procurement & Supply



# Kilili announces \$1 million grant for Close Up program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Delegate to Congress Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said yesterday that the Department of the Interior has awarded the Close Up Foundation \$1.05 million for fiscal year 2012. Close Up will use the grant to bring students and teachers from the Northern Marianas and other insular areas to the nation's capitol for a program of civic education.

"Despite intense competition for increasingly limited federal dollars, Congress, once again,

provided funds to Interior for this very worthwhile program," Sablan said, "maintaining last year's funding level.

"Without this financial assistance many Northern Marianas students could not afford to come to Washington, meet federal officials, engage in public policy workshops, and debate the issues of the day under the auspices of Close Up," Sablan added.

"You can see the benefits of the program in the members of Congress who were first inspired to public service because

of their Close Up experience, and in congressional staff and emerging leaders in the Northern Marianas, whose participation in Close Up has guided

their subsequent civic activity."

Close Up provides high school students and their teachers an extended program of civic education that includes visits to historically important sites in Philadelphia, New York, and Williamsburg, Virginia. Through study of how their democratic government works, participants are encouraged to become active

members of their communities and given the tools to be effective citizens.

Last year, 28 Northern Marianas students and teachers travelled to Washington for Close Up.

"These students will help strengthen our community with the civic and leadership skills that Close Up teaches them," said Sablan.

In addition to its Washington-based program, Close Up also conducts a three-day Youth Summit on Saipan. Attendees identify issues of importance, develop a set of policy recommendations, and present their "Agenda for Policy Action" to local government officials. Scores of students attended the Saipan event last year, which is also underwritten with technical assistance funds appropriated by Congress. (PR)

## Close Up Guam awarded \$1.05m in federal grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate to Congress Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced yesterday that the Close Up program in Guam has been awarded \$1.05 million from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Fund. The grant will support Guam's local chapter continue its efforts to provide hands-on civic education programs for students and teachers.

The Close Up Foundation is a national nonprofit organization, based in Washington, D.C., that promotes civic engagement among middle school and high school students across the country.

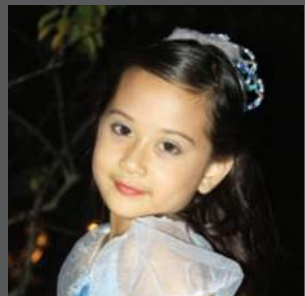
"The funding received today will help Close Up on Guam continue their key programs, such as the Guahan Youth Summit and the immersion program in Washington, D.C.," said Bordallo. "Organizations such as Close Up help shape our island's future leaders by providing the resources and knowledge needed to become informed and active members of our community. I thank Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta and the Department of Interior for supporting this program, and I look forward to meeting with more of our students from Guam during their upcoming trip to our nation's capital." (PR)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Celine Sales, who celebrated her special day yesterday, Feb. 8, 2012! Wishing you all the best in life and many, many, many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greetings come from Tatay, Nanay, Ate Kyna, Kuya Yoyi, Ninong Soc, and Ninong Jayvee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy 7th birthday Analyn Michelle Arnold Baculod! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### HOME FRONT SUPPORT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bridge Capital LLC recently presented a check to the Operation Home Front Support Committee. The funds were used to support mailing costs to send more than 200 care packages around the world to service members. "These packages from home helped brighten the holidays for those serving in the military," said Kennedy Benjamin committee and Army Reserve member. Operation Home Front support is a community partnership with leadership from NMC, Red Cross, MCV, and DoCoMo. In photo are, from left, Daniel Stafford, Bridge Capital associate legal counsel; office manager Allen Perez; John Hirsh and Juan Lizama, Home Front Support committee members.

## Love is in the air at Island Florals and Gifts

"THINKING OF YOU ALWAYS..."

**Elegant arrangements of fresh flowers from US, Holland and Ecuador**

**We've just received lots of stuffed toys and novelty products from Blue Magic.**

**Plan A Touch of Elegance Dozen Roses with Balloon**  
(Choice of vase or wrap)

**Plan B Love of Half Dozen Roses**  
(Choice of vase or wrap)

**Plan C I Love U Roses**  
(Choice of vase, tissue wrap or plastic wrap)

**Plan D Red Charm**  
(Choice of vase, tissue wrap or plastic wrap)

**Plan E Long Stem Sweetheart Roses**

**Plan F Straight from the Hearts**

**Plan G Valentines Day Bouquet**

#### Other Gift ideas:

- ✿ Fruit and Wine Baskets
- ✿ Gourmet Baskets
- ✿ Balloon Bouquet
- ✿ Silk and Dried Flowers

Phone: 235-2230 / 989-7356 • Fax: 235-2231 • Email: islandflorals@pticom.com • Website: www.islandfloralsandgifts.com





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Very Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja, ESFDB administration, faculty, students, and parents pose for a souvenir photo in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

## Rota school marks Catholic Schools Week

Jan. 29 marked the start of Catholic Schools Week, with Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota holding activities to promote their faith-based education and celebrating how it has influenced a small community like Rota.

Like many Catholic schools nationwide, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja celebrated the week with daily and fun activities scheduled for students, faculty, and parents. The celebration reminded parents and

the students alike that we are a Catholic, private school, focusing on the mixture of faith, academics, and service. The faith and service components complement the school's challenging academics.

Faith, academics, and service are the root of everything that happens at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja. It is that very sense of faith, academics, and service that serves as the foundation the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja experiences. Es-

kuelan San Francisco de Borja Catholic school teaches all the things that make the Rota community the great place it is: high standards, moral values, personal responsibility, and civic duty.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's Catholic Schools Week celebration kicked off with a Mass on Jan. 30, at the San Francisco de Borja Church; Jan. 31 Wacky Tacky Wear and Academic Games; Feb. 1, Nickel A Day and Parent Teacher Conference; Feb. 2, Bible Contest, and

on Feb. 3, First Friday Mass, Outdoor Games, and Family Bonding to culminate Catholic Schools Week.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja administration, faculty, and students would like to extend their appreciation to all donors, benefactors, ESFDB board of directors, ESFDB Parent Teacher Association, parents, guardians, Apostolic Administrator Very Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, and Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja. (*Edward Maratita, Jr.*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, event co-chair Juan Lizama, Subway Investments Corp. managing director Marcos W. Fong, event co-chair Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero, and, Red Cross executive director John Hirsh.

## 26th annual Red Cross Walkathon on March 24

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will host its walkathon on March 24, 2012, at the 4-H building in Susupe as well as on Rota and Tinian. Event co-chairs Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero and Juan Lizama are now preparing for the best event ever!

The Transpac Group of companies composed of Coke, Subway, Foremost, and Glimpses will again be a premier sponsor, according to John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter.

"We highly value all the contributions from Transpac. Their group of companies al-

ways makes our event extra special," said Hirsh.

The Red Cross Walkathon is the largest walking event in the Commonwealth with more than 2,500 participants from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The Walkathon is a key partnership with PSS and private schools to promote wellness and physical activity while supporting the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross.

This year there will again be a health fair, games, T-shirts, petting zoo and lots more. For more information call the Red Cross at 234-3459. (*PR*)



### HONOR STUDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

University of New Mexico freshman Pauline Manibusan Manglona, daughter of Senate President Paul and Lydia Manglona of Rota, has exhibited superior academic performance and has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester 2011. Pauline earned this distinction by obtaining a GPA of 3.99. Pauline graduated from Rota High School this past June as salutatorian. She is pursuing a degree in nursing at UNM in hopes of becoming a nurse practitioner one day.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 9, 1999

### NMC unlikely to get fund boost from user fees

Despite earlier projections that funds can be sourced from poker fees, the Northern Marianas College is not expected to receive additional appropriation for some 530 students under the government financial aid program, legislators said yesterday. Revenues amounting to \$488,000 from renewal of poker licenses previously identified by the Saipan delegation are apparently not there, dashing hopes by members to supplant shortfall in NMC budget for this year. Finance officials have disclosed that the money cannot be realized for FY 1999 because the 244 poker machines had renewed their licenses even before Saipan passed a law last December that increased the fee by \$2,000 for local appropriation.

### To invite investors: Increase land lease term to 99 years

To make the CNMI as an attractive destination for investors, the government should amend the current land lease term and extend it to 99 years, according to Pacific Rim Properties President Tim Goodwin. He made this proposal to the study team from the University of Guam recently formed by the Business Development Center of the Northern Marianas who will present the CNMI with an economic plan next month. His company lost the opportunity of serving a number of investors wanting to put up businesses here because of the land lease term.

Feb. 9, 2000

### Semi-private administration of SBDC programs sought

The Commonwealth Development Authority is finalizing preparations for its complete takeover of a federally funded program aimed at intensifying business activities in the islands through entrepreneurship and better management. CDA Board Chair John S. Tenorio bared plans to administer programs under the Small Business Development Center in close partnership with major business organizations in the Northern Marianas. According to Mr. Tenorio, increased participation of the private sector in the administration of SBDC programs, which will be completely transferred to CDA next week, would prove to be more advantageous to both the Development Authority and the program's target groups.

### Bank of Guam eyes more in-store branches

Counting on the anticipated success of its first in-store branch on Saipan, Bank of Guam is already taking another step forward as it looks into clearing the road for similar branches in the near future. BOG vice president and Saipan branch manager Marcie M. Tomokane disclosed plans are now underway to set up more Bank of Guam in-store branches in the Northern Marianas. The bank's in-store branch inside Price Costco in San Jose is its first in the CNMI. BOG introduced the new banking concept in Guam where it build the first in-store branch in Payless. "We have other areas that we are now looking at. Everything is still under study but we might open another branch in another supermarket," Ms. Tomokane said.

Feb. 9, 2001

### CPA bares on \$170M airport improvements

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is embarking on a \$170 million aviation facilities upgrade on all three island terminals, envisioned to stimulate the growth of CNMI's lagging tourism industry. Covering air transportation points on Saipan, Rota and Tinian, CPA through its 2001 to 2006 Airports Development Plan, laid out a blueprint of improvement projects targeted for completion within five years. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday described the agency's five-year agenda as an "optimistic" plan that is anticipated to spur visitors traffic to the Commonwealth.

### Budget impasse may imperil vote counting

The budget impasse for FY2000 appropriations has been persistently preventing the Board of Election from acquiring needed computers and tabulating machine to ensure smoother holding of electoral process this November. Election Executive Director Greg Sablan yesterday disclosed that the administration and the Legislature are yet to release the requested \$104,000 funding assistance despite persistent efforts of the BOE to immediately purchase needed equipment in preparation for the general election. "It is so near and yet so far, we are waiting for the green light or whether or not we're going to receive the money for the tabulating machine," Sablan told reporters.



# MMAC team captains' meeting today

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding a team captains' meeting today, Feb. 9, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. It will begin promptly at 5:30pm.

"All teams are urged to attend this meeting where vital information will be discussed. We are still actively seeking more families, corporations, non-profit organizations, schools and government agencies who are interested in forming a team to help raise funds for the battle against cancer," said 2012 MMAC overall committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves. "With this being the 10th anniversary of the MMAC, we encourage the community to come out and help raise badly needed funds for the fight against cancer. All funds raised at the MMAC are spent entirely in the Northern Marianas. We all know someone who has been touched by cancer so this is your chance

to honor your loved ones who have been affected by this deadly affliction."

The MMAC committee is also inviting all bands, singers, dancers, and other performers who are interested in volunteering their time at the 2012 MMAC.

"We have spots open throughout the MMAC, which will go from 6pm to 6am. Please contact entertainment committee chairman L.J. Castro at 483-1027 or email [ljmamis@gmail.com](mailto:ljmamis@gmail.com) if you're interested in performing at the MMAC or need more information," said Attao-Toves.

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held from 6pm to 6am on April 27-28 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. Contact Attao-Toves at 285-1828 or email [attaoc@yahoo.com](mailto:attaoc@yahoo.com) or visit [www.ccamarianas.org](http://www.ccamarianas.org) for more information. *(MMAC)*

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Saipan Marathon registration deadline today

The last day to register for the 7th Saipan Marathon is today, Feb. 9. The race will feature a marathon, half-marathon, 10K, and 50K on March 3, 2012. Registration forms may be submitted to the Marianas Visitors Authority office in Oleai from 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm. For a registration form or more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) or <http://japan.mymarianas.com/saipanmarathon/> or contact Ed Diaz of the Marianas Visitors Authority at [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com) or 1.670.664.3200/1. *(MVA)*

### Jeffries and Obyan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Jeffries Beach and Obyan Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. *(DEQ)*

### Energy awareness drive next week

The Division of Energy will be kicking off its first Energy Awareness Campaign for 2012 on Feb. 17, 2012, with two sessions (morning or afternoon) and on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012, with one morning session only at the

Pacific Island Club.

This event will provide the residential community tips on how to conserve energy at home and how to save money using energy efficient products that carry the Energy Star label. This event will educate the community on the importance of energy conservation in the CNMI.

Due to limited seating, interested individuals must pre-register with the CNMI Energy Division office to confirm attendance and seating by Feb. 16, 2012, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. In addition, registered attendees will be required to present a copy of their most recent utility bill, in their names, to be allowed to participate in the scheduled sessions.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- Friday, Feb. 17, 2012
  - 1<sup>st</sup> session: 8am to 11am
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> session: 1pm to 4pm
- Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012
  - One session only: 8am to 11am

For more information, contact the CNMI Division of Energy office at 664-4480/1. *(Office of the Governor)*

### Kagman High sets homecoming

Kagman High School will be celebrating its homecoming to commemorate 10 years on Feb. 11, 2012, from 9am to 1pm, at the Kagman High School courtyard (some events will be held at the basketball court. The school is inviting all current and former students, current and former administrators, and all education officials to the event. Intended activities include carnival games, class and club performances, food/snacks, pickup games of basketball and volleyball (alumni vs current students). *(PR)*



## Position Vacancy Announcement

### Position: Vice President/General Manager (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

### Position: Executive Chef (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years experienced and training in culinary cooking and have graduated from a Culinary School, accounts for the management and supervision of kitchen staff and cooks, provides a consistently high quality of food product services to guests and customers, ensure that meals are produced, presented and served to the highest possible standards, monitors materials, supplies and equipment needs, ensure staff uphold and maintain current standards of hygiene and safety, ensure the kitchen maintains a high level of sanitary conditions in a accordance with and all applicable laws, statutes, and policies, communicate with staff in order to facilitate and conduct a team approach, monitor food trend and incorporate new styles and ideas to fulfill customer demands and needs.

### Position: Assistant Chef, Korean Cuisine (1)

**Qualifications:** Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

### Position: Chef de Partie (1)

**Qualifications:** 7 years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest oriented and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

### Position: Chief Cook (1)

**Qualifications:** Minimum of 5 years of experience and training, knowledge of standards of food preparation, serves, and observes kitchen procedures, experience in kitchen management, train kitchen staff, monitoring and assessing performance of the kitchen staff to make improvements or take corrective action, direct the preparation, seasoning, and cooking of food, determine how food should be presented and create decorative food displays, ensure timely delivery of services, estimate amounts and costs of required supplies, instruct cook and other kitchen staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing and presentation of food, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards and regulations.

### Position: Cook (6)

**Qualifications:** Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

### Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of working experience and training, Must have supervisory experienced and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

### Position: Wait staff (Waiter/Waitress) (5)

**Qualifications:** 2 years experience and training, must have preferably worked at a hotel or tourism industry, ability to listen to and understand through spoken words and sentences, ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern, communicating with Supervisors, peers, or subordinates, handling and moving of objects, judging the qualities of things, services, or people, performing general physical activities, talking to others to convey information effectively, acting listening and service orientated.

### Position: Kitchen Helper (2)

**Qualifications:** Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

### Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak) computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

### Position: Korean Concierge (1)

**Qualification:** 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

### Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)

**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product

and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

### Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

### Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashing and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

### Position: Front Desk Supervisor (2)

**Qualifications:** Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

### Position: Front Desk Clerk (2)

**Qualifications:** Must have at least 2 year experienced and training in hotel hospitality or tourism industry, must have good communication skills, professional attitude and organization, enjoy working with people, experienced in customer services, sales, ability to use a computer, handles cash, experienced in administrative skills, ensure guests billing is correct, must assist in general maintenance and inventory of Front Office supplies, be courteous and efficient with customers.

### Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)

**Qualifications:** Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manner, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

### Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)

**Qualifications:** 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the Housekeeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

### Position: Housekeeping (2)

**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests' property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

### Position: Chief Accountant (1)

**Qualifications:** must have bachelor's degree in public or business administration, accounting, finance or related field, supplemented by 5 years progressively responsible experience in business accounting, ability to understand, follow and confer written and oral instructions, ability to effectively supervise a staff comprised of entry and journey level professionals engaged in carrying out departmental functions, extensive knowledge of generally accepted standard accounting principles, established procedures, departmental guidelines and regulatory requirements.

### Position: Accountant I (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of experienced and training, and a college graduate in the field of accounting or related field, maintain general ledger accounting system, analyze accounts and prepare account adjustment as needed, assist with fixed asset and inventory systems and record-keeping, perform a variety of complex, professional level accounting functions, maintain confidentiality of payroll and other related records, ability to prepare clear, concise and comprehensive financial, statistical and narrative reports, and perform complex financial, statistical, budgetary cost analysis and ability to perform complex accounting duties related to assigned activities.

### Position: Accountant (1)

**Qualifications:** 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

### Position: Information Technology Technician (1)

**Qualification:** Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manage.

### Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)

**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

### Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)

**Qualifications:** 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all Laolao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

### Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)

**Qualifications:** Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

### Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generations, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

### Position: HVAC Technician (1)

**Qualifications:** 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

### Position: Building Maintenance (2)

**Qualifications:** Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devices.

### Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

### Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safely, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

### Position: Operations/Marshall (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have training and experience in the field of golf industry, must knowledge of the rules of the golf game is a must, ensures that an adequate pace of play is maintained, makes the golf game more enjoyable for everyone, enforces rules and regulations and control golf play on the golf course, enforces etiquette related to golf course usage, golf playing equipment and its recommended use, perform duties with significant independence, establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those in the course of the work.

### Position: Supervisor, Landscape (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 7 years of experienced and training in the field of a golf course industry, must oversees the landscaping activities and supervises all landscaping personnel, work required judgment and initiative, planning, scheduling, organizing and directing work, training personnel, teaches and enforces safety regulations, monitors jobs both indoors and outdoors to ensure quality and compliance with job standards, performs duties of a landscaper, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, considerable external and or internal contacts to carry out responsibilities.

### Position: Supervisor, Greens keeper (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 7 years of training and experienced, must have worked preferably at a hotel and golf industry, establishes and maintain and repair programs for the golf course and the hotel, evaluates and determines the need for and scope of emergency repairs and supervises staff and contractors in performing work, establishes procedures governing employee and customer's safety, perform grounds maintenance, perform preventive maintenance to the equipment, applies insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers maintains and operate irrigation system, experienced and knowledgeable in tractor operation and mowing.

### Position: Greens keeper (14)

**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, knowledge of methods and materials used in grounds and landscaped area knowledge of and ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to operate trucks, light motorized equipment, physical strength, stamina and agility, assists in the construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, lays sod, and seeds tees, greens and fairways.

### Position: Nursery Workers (4)

**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, performs routine maintenance on equipment, move containerized shrubs, plants, greens, using wheelbarrows, carts, shovel or tractors, maintain grounds and landscaping, haul and spread topsoil, fertilizer, peat moss and other materials to condition soil, requires to be reliable, responsible, and dependable, pleasant to work with, displays good natured and cooperative attitude.

### Position: Machinist (1)

**Qualifications:** 5 years of experience and training, must have overall knowledge working with machines, of machines, knowledge of a machine structure, performs routine maintenance on equipment, determine when and what kind of maintenance is needed, requires physical activities and considerable use of the arms, legs and moving your whole body.

### Position: Fabricator & Assembler (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 10 years of training and experience, must be able to fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal products and equipment on the basis of knowledge of system operation, may work with aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, or other sheet metal stock, frequent to constant standing, walking throughout shift on all types of surfaces, maintains a safe work environment must be able to plan, organize, must be able to read and understand technical information, manuals, material safety data sheets, work order.

### Position: Heavy Equipment Machinist (1)

**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of training and experience, performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment including road graders, knowledge of hazards and safety precautions of the trade, operation and maintenance requirements of heavy duty construction equipment, work cooperatively with other employees, work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others, performs incidental welding operations on equipment.

### Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (2)

**Qualification:** high school diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

Drop off your resume at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road.

May submit resume online at: [mada@laolaobay.com](http://mada@laolaobay.com)

WE ACCEPT APPLICATIONS UP TO FEBRUARY 24, 2012.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., dba Laolao Bay Golf & Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXII, Issue No. 33Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## The world must tighten economic sanctions against Syria

It didn't take long for Syrian President Bashar Assad to take advantage of Russian and Chinese vetoes of a U.N. measure demanding that his regime stop the killing of anti-dictatorship protesters.

Within a day of Saturday's vote, he answered with more wanton violence, including deadly heavy artillery barrages Monday on a field hospital in the city of Homs and in Zabadani, a town where opposition fighters thought they had a truce with security forces.

In response to the deteriorating situation in Syria, the United States closed its embassy and Great Britain recalled its ambassador. Both countries roundly denounced Assad and the actions of Russia and China, both responsible for making Syria less stable.

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is right to say that China and Russia now have blood on their hands for their decision to cower from the basic step of condemning Syria's reign of terror against dissidents. By blocking the Security Council resolution, Russia and China undermined a growing international effort to hold the Syrian government to account and effectively gave a green light to the continuation of the brutal crackdown.

It appears that Russia and China opposed the resolution partly as a rebuke to the United States, which has opposed U.N. action against Israel on its treatment of Palestinians. But it is laughable that Russia and China claim that they are attempting to prevent greater violence and regional chaos. If that were true, Russia would cease selling arms to Syria and China would break off commercial trade that fuels the violence.

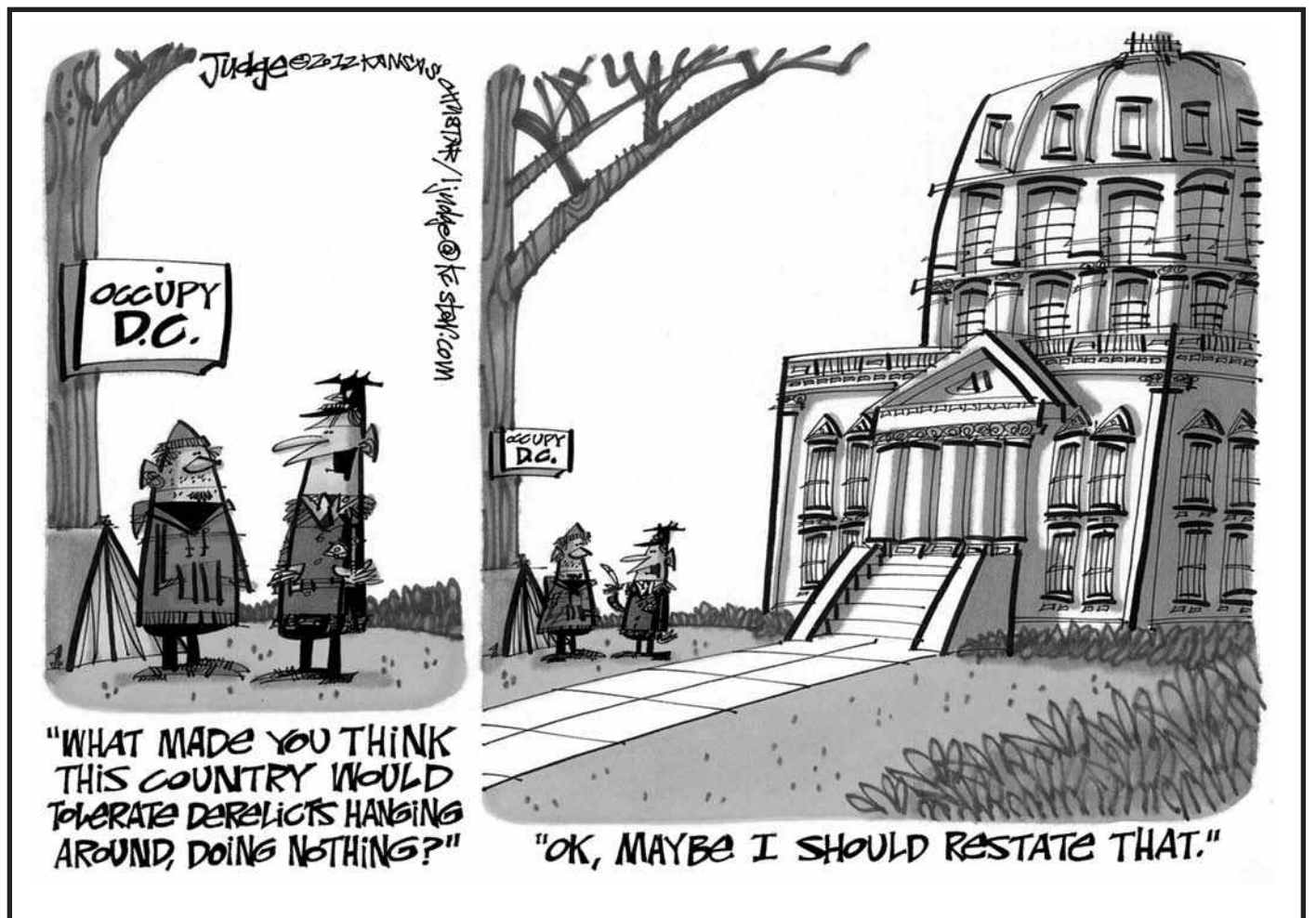
Nonetheless, Assad shows no signs of relenting, so the international community now must redouble efforts to force him to relinquish power and make way for a democratically elected government. This would have been easier had China and Russia demonstrated fortitude. But the next step is for the United States and other nations opposed to the violence to intensify economic sanctions against the Syrian government, as has been done against Iran.

Sanctions are the best option in this problematic situation. Unlike in Libya, answering Syria's violence with an international military response isn't viable right now. Syria has close ties to Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and has looked the other way as Islamic radicals have crossed into neighboring Iraq. Syria's ability to cause regional havoc is well documented, and it would do just that in response to international military intervention.

Assad must feel the economic pressure from nations committed to drying up the sources of funding and the arms shipments that keep him in power. Syria doesn't have the oil reserves of Libya, so it would be hurt quickly by stiff sanctions against its financial assets and interests globally.

The Assad regime's only claim to power lies with a military financed with foreign trade. The world must force an end to this deadly crackdown on democracy and human rights.

©2012 The Dallas Morning News



## Tomodachi

Jack Hardy sent Bill Stewart a link to a YouTube *We will remember you* video he forwarded to us, which I found ([http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=SS-sWdAQsYg&vq=medium](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=SS-sWdAQsYg&vq=medium)) to be so moving and compelling that I sent it many times around the globe ever since. We will skip the weight of our tear basin, but if you want to add some of yours, take a look at the upload. Make sure you have adequate supply of paper towels!

The video begins with a fear-inducing tremor from the 9.0 Richter scale mega-thrust that shook Japan's northeastern shores 3.11. This was only the beginning as a resulting tsunami as high as 133 ft. roared 6 miles inland.

All told, some 16,000 deaths, 6,000 injuries, and 3,300 people missing were the disaster's official tally. Some 125,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed. Damage on public infrastructures was incalculable. Access to electricity and potable water was critical. The death of sakura hope stood at the threshold.

In Ishinomaki, Miyagi prefecture, on March 11, 2010, an Elemental School English teacher and student of Japanese culture since 2008 named Taylor Anderson calmed her class through the tremor until their parents came to pick them up, then pedaled on her bike home to her apartment shortly before the tsunami struck. She never made it home.

Now the children in her class who are about to graduate remember their *sensei* very well and very dearly. The video proceeds to identify other nations' response to the disaster from various countries including the United States. Reminiscent of scenes of the cavalry arriving as an impending rout of "innocents by savages" used to be common fare in cowboy-and-native American movies of my youth, a naval carrier group appears on the video shortly after acknowledging Taylor's assistance, highlighting a response by the US Navy's Operation *Tomodachi* (Friend/s).

Cavalry to the rescue in my childhood imagination was artillery coming to wipe out the enemy. In this case, it was the U.S. Armed Forces appropriating a function that does not usually get the budgetary limelight in our armament-focused military-industrial complex guided Pentagon.

The Marianas is familiar with the SeaBees (CB, Construction Battalion) who had done much in the construction of infrastructure during post-WWII occupation in the Pacific and the Trust Territory of Micronesia.

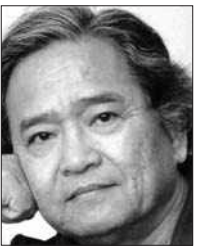
We once considered joining the Philippine Armed Forces with a possible stint at West Point across the Hudson River in NYC, if one did well in copycat PMA, the Philippine Military Academy. That, or join the flyboys to ride 'em F-4s shortly before Vietnam started heating up.

West Point was established as an engineering school, the ideal pattern for any other engineering school before the American Civil War. Though it included familiarity with artillery and ordnance, its primary thrust was on construction rather than destruction. The tradition of military officers at home with the protractor, the slide rule,

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara ([jrvergara2031@aol.com](mailto:jrvergara2031@aol.com)) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



and the compass, constructing the nation's railway lines, bridges, harbors, and roads remained in my military-enamored imagination.

The disciplines of the arts and humanities, and the social sciences found its way into the curriculum, though liberal learning was later pummeled during the Southeast Asian encounters when officers were deemed too elitist and indecisive.

It is this engineering and humanities tradition that came on shore in the Earthquake of Tohoku 2011 for which the video is most grateful. That expression of gratitude in the last half of the video is what got us reaching for the Kleenex.

Off video, we remember Japan's calmness under pressure, and its gracious acceptance of assistance, but after a while, "nuff and thank you, but no more, thank you" echoed back from strongly radiated Fukushima. The self-confidence of a people empowered their own motivity and resolve to rise from the ashes, or in this case, from the sea slime and crust, and the plutonium isotopes. Self-reliance and self-sufficiency prevailed.

It also became too hot a number for the world to appropriate as the nuclear accidents, primarily the level 7 meltdowns at Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant complex, hit global anxiety and massive evacuation zones.

We earlier mentioned the discovery of weapons-grade nuclear emissions coming from one of the plants, and though the matter is on U.S. congressional record, the media has kept it out of the public view. We want to think of Japan as a nuclear-weapons free zone; it has forsaken nuclear radiation among its weapons of mass destruction. That's like saying Israel has no nukes. Right.

Other heady issues as climate warming, the possibility that the additional weight of water might be loosening earth's tectonics, and the responsible management of nuclear energy in a world of peak oil and continued dependence on coal for increasing power demand, are not in the video.

What it does have is a sample of the soul of a nation who knows how to acknowledge internal indebtedness (*utang na loob*, in Pili-pino), something also was once in the Chamolinian psyche until we made bashing the feds a sport. We commend the video if only to see how our one-sided stereotyped images of Japanese atrocities during WWII have determined how we exploit the half-a-million tourists and *tomodachi* that Nippon sends annually to our shores.

The video ends with a mother holding a child born on 3.11, saying *Arigato*. Ditto for the *Arigato from Japan*.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Building beneficial relationships with complementary business

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Rik coaches business owners to develop consistently profitable businesses that can operate without them. He can be contacted at [RikVillegas@gmail.com](mailto:RikVillegas@gmail.com), and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.*



Last week I talked about developing relationships with complementary organizations, and how they are the key to positioning your business as the best choice amongst a gaggle of competitors. Complementary businesses are focused on the same prospects as your business at an earlier moment on the timeline, and prior to the Life Transition intersection where most of your competitors are figuratively gathered.

Developing mutually beneficial relationships with these businesses means that they will recommend your products and services to prospects who are highly qualified. Using the example of an engaged couple, they would visit a jeweler early in their preparations to get married. At the lower level of a business relationship, the jewelry store will have the business cards or brochures on their counter for couples to take that promote other companies that will be visited in the future. At the highest level of the business relationship, the jewelry store owner and staff would highly recommend the services of a business they trust to assist the couple with the success of their wedding.

A key concept is for you to work with trusted professionals who are reputable because of their excellent customer-focused orientation, are respected by their peers and clients, and their recommendations are warmly welcomed. The result of nurturing a mutually beneficial relationship with a trusted professional is you will be associated with a strong center of influence that refers qualified pros-

pects who already trust you to offer the best Life Transition solution to their wants and needs.

As you develop more relationships with complementary businesses that cater to your prospects at a Life Transition intersection prior to the transition point you serve, you will create an ongoing stream of referrals. You will also begin to position your business as a trusted source because of the regular recommendations from other trusted, complementary businesses.

Years ago, before the Internet became a powerful marketing tool, I noticed that many of my clients served engaged couples as a common customer. They were all advertising in the same media with about the same message as their competitors and waiting for the couples to contact them. I worked with them for about a year to fine-tune a program that got the names of newly engaged couples and asked them to complete a checklist of the items they were still planning to purchase.

The couples were mailed a packet that included a checklist, useful information, and coupons from the businesses I worked with, and my clients received a useful database of names and the items the couple still needed so they could be contacted directly. Each of the businesses worked collaboratively to preempt the marketing efforts of their competitors, and the competition didn't even know what was happening because we didn't use conventional media to promote it.

This is a more complicated method to work in cooperation with several businesses in a strategic alliance. However, you can develop simpler Life Transition relationships working one-on-one with complementary businesses. Once you grasp the power of harnessing Life Transitions in your business and how you can become a part of your prospect's life prior to their need for your goods and services, you'll easily identify ways to keep customers loyal to your business and create a greater lifetime value from your customers.

To identify the complementary businesses that you can start working with, think of your most valuable target customer group and put them in the middle of a piece of paper with a circle around them. With the example I've been using, "engaged couples" would be in the center and circled. Now draw spokes radiating from the center circle and list all of the different categories of businesses the couple and their families will visit to prepare for their wedding. For example, the engaged couple will be visiting jewelers, restaurants, photographers, bakers, reception centers, etc.

Now that you have a list of non-competing and complementary

the level of their IQ and physical attributes, it follows that the centrists—being in the middle of the continuum—are average thinkers and average looking? Of course, this presumption is as fallacious as the two studies seem to be.

Both studies seem to render an unfair indictment of the self-proclaimed right-wingers and represent unjustified exoneration of the education system for its purported failure. The neuroscience theory on political views may further reduce crucial debates on social and economic issues to the tyranny of extremism and the frivolity of name-calling.

Conservatism and the liberalism are the two major political labels that represent the opposite poles on the political spectrum. But each spectrum is fragmented into different mini-factions that correspond to more labels. The socially right holds that the government should interfere with social lives of citizens, in contrast with the socially left, which bucks government interference. The economic right holds that the government should not interfere in the economy, in contrast with the economic left that endorses a tax-and-spend government.

These artificial labels mostly appeal to the intellectually lazy, who pick one prepackaged set of beliefs instead of thinking for themselves. They shut off any ideas outside of the box. When leaders choose this route, the citizens are held hostage. Last year's debate on the debt ceiling in Washington, for example, paralyzed the budget process for months because neither the Republicans nor the Democrats would budge an inch.

A strict alignment with a specific political spectrum—which attempts to simplify issues that otherwise need judicious discussions—creates fanaticism that limits our ability to make a more astute judgment.

Local politics is a different story though. In Guam, which has its own adaptation of the nation's two-party system, loyalty to a party is usually influenced by family traditions and who gives more government jobs rather than ideology.

Generally, the label tactic to reinforce identity politics has been part the history of world politics. But in the end, it's up to the citizens to escape political hostage by educating themselves and thinking independently.

We can make non-hysterical judgment outside of labels and choose candidates with sensible minds—regardless of their looks. But then again, if neuroscience is accurate, then humankind is doomed.

businesses that serve your target market, the next step is to imagine the sequence or priority when each of the businesses would typically be visited so you can identify the businesses that will be seen prior to visiting your business.

Make a list of the specific businesses in each of the categories and identify those organizations that have the best reputation, and have built the strongest relationships with their customers. You will want to approach the best companies at the top on your list. In next week's article, I'll wrap up this series by sharing seven specific steps that you can take to make effective use of your prospects' and customers' Life Transitions.

## Letters to the Editor

### Relaxing in paradise

Dearest Mr. DelRosario: I liked your letter sir, but I unfortunately cannot take too much time to respond. I'm busy sipping my Dom Perignon champagne as I watch the sunset from my yacht. I also have a few more stacks of money to count and need to do some brainstorming in regards to my next ploy to keep living the high life at the expense of the taxpayer. Boastfully yours, Brian Sullivan, MD (which I guess stands for Mediocre Doctor).

**Brian Sullivan, MD**

CHC, Saipan

### An open letter to Finance

I am a parent of a student who is attending college in Edmonds, Washington. My daughter submitted two applications for scholarship in the CNMI for school year 2011-2012: SHEFA and the CNMI Scholarship. My daughter asked me to follow up on her scholarship. I went to SHEFA and was told that my daughter's application was approved and that they had submitted her name as well as other students for processing of scholarship checks, but the SHEFA Office inform me that they are still awaiting the Department of Finance's approval of the checks. I went up to Capital Hill to follow up with the CNMI Scholarship Office, and again, I was told that my daughter's application was approved and her name has been forwarded to Finance for processing. I had called often to both offices to follow up and was told that they are still waiting for Finance to process the checks.

Last week, I went up to the DOF Office to meet Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson with regards to this issue and was told to wait for her call for an appointment. She never called me back. Again, I called DOF today and was told to wait for her call to set an appointment. Ms. Larson, I am tired of waiting for your call. I know that you are a busy person, but you're not the only one who is busy. All I want to hear is, "Mr. Sablan, we have issued your daughter's as well as other students' scholarship checks."

I don't know what the priority of this government is, if we cannot give our children the opportunity to advance their education for the future of these islands. Politicians are experts on this. Education, education, but when in office, education is third priority! To the politicians, I ask you now to stand up and fight for our college students! Stop giving them a bleak picture of what the future of the islands is and will be. Give them your great support. Call Ms. Larson and demand that she do her job and process and issue all college students' outstanding scholarship checks!

My daughter's school is starting the third quarter, and she did not get even a penny from both scholarship offices.

**Vicente M. Sablan**

Kagman III, Saipan

### Hoping for answers

I write this trying to keep my eyes from watering up and wishing the Romero family strength. I read about Emerita Romero's body being found at La Fiesta. I couldn't help but flash back to the early '90s. We lost a daughter, cousin, and mother to sexual assault on Saipan and until this day her case remains cold. Her body was thrown over a cliff, left to rot in the ocean. By the time she was found, she was nearly decomposed and buried in a folded up body bag. Her son, now graduating high school in the mainland, never got the chance to know his mother or for her to see him grow into the young man he is today. With that said, I hope for answers for Emerita Romero's family. I pray that their questions, combined with the technology of today, are answered and that they find peace. I would never want anyone to feel the pain and unrest that our family continues to feel today with an unsolved case and no answers.

**Kim Pangelinan**

Tucson, AZ

## Label X

### FLIGHTS

By **MAR-VIC CAGURANGAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Mar-Vic Cagurangan is a Guam-based journalist. She is the former managing editor of Glimpses Publications and is now a full-time domestic goddess. Send feedback to [mar\\_vic\\_cagurangan@yahoo.com](mailto:mar_vic_cagurangan@yahoo.com).*



If studies are to be trusted—or taken seriously, for that matter—one's place in the political spectrum has something to do with one's intelligence and beauty. People with right wing opinions tend to be less intelligent than those with views toward the left, according to a UK study, which concluded that low childhood intelligence can lead to racist attitudes and homophobia. Right-wing politics, according to the behavioral scholars, serve as a "gateway" into prejudice against others. The research holds that people with low IQ are drawn toward the right because conservative views make them feel safe. If this was the case, then those accused of so-called "hate crimes" may use neurocognitive foundation as defense (Your honor, the accused is inherently stupid and incapable of making moral judgment.).

A separate study conducted by Swedish and Finnish economists claimed that right wing candidates are better looking than their left wing counterparts. "One possible explanation is that people who are seen or consider themselves beautiful tend to be more anti-egalitarian and right wing," according to Niclas Berggren, one of the three co-authors of the study. The study said that globally, "the left perhaps traditionally has used a more rational approach," while "the right has been more conscious of the importance of looks" and "the voters reward them for it."

Berggren mentioned Ronald Reagan and Sarah Palin as classic examples of beautiful right-wingers. (Hmmm, did he overlook the hot Democrats such as Bill Clinton, Al Gore, and George Clooney? But this is beside the point and my taste has nothing to do with my political philosophy.)






So, if people's affiliation with a political spectrum corresponds to



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79

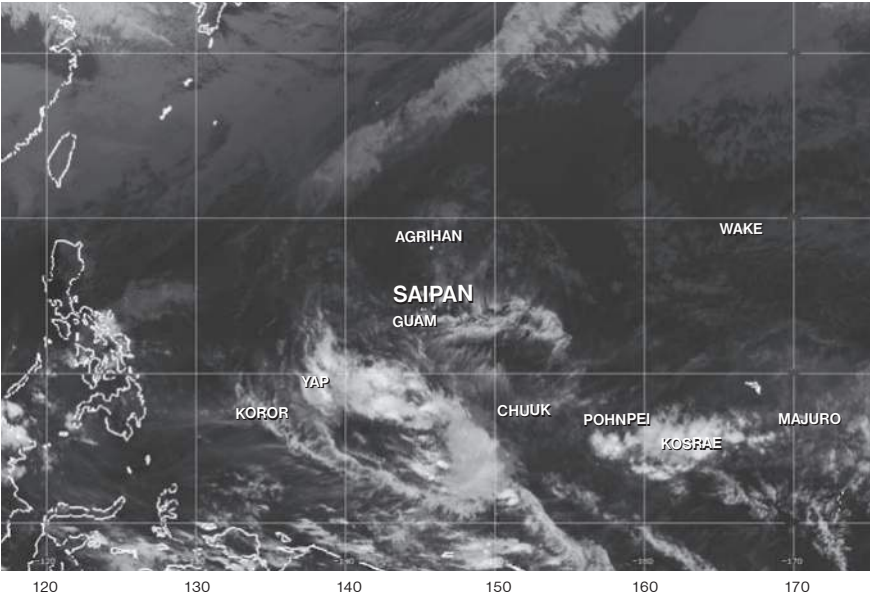
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 63
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 33
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 49
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 62
Miami	Showers	▲ 82 ▼ 67
New York	Snow	▲ 39 ▼ 30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 36
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 34 ▼ 22
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 28
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 37
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 32 ▼ 19
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 45 ▼ 34
Washington, DC	Ice	▲ 40 ▼ 33

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Iwo To island at 25N145E to 19N137E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends north-westward from EQ144E to near Yap at 11N139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring just east of Yap within 160 miles of a line from 10N139E to 7N146E to 2N150E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers over Majuro and Kosrae but south of Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 4N159E to 8N180E. A few thunderstorms are found near Kosrae west of 165E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:35 PM	7:19 AM
Friday	8:32 PM	8:03 AM
Saturday	9:30 PM	8:48 AM
Sunday	10:28 PM	9:34 AM
Monday	11:28 PM	10:22 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



# NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## No cigar: Economic embargo on Cuba turns 50

**HAVANA (AP)**—When it started, American teenagers were doing “The Twist.” The United States had yet to put a man into orbit around the Earth. And a first-class U.S. postage stamp cost 4 cents.

The world is much changed since the early days of 1962, but one thing has remained constant: The U.S. economic embargo on communist-run Cuba, a near-total trade ban that turned 50 on Tuesday.

Supporters say it is a justified measure against a repressive government that has never stopped being a thorn in Washington’s side. Critics call it a failed policy that has hurt ordinary Cubans instead of the government.

All acknowledge that it has not accomplished its core mission of toppling Fidel and Raul Castro.

“All this time has gone by, and yet we keep it in place,” said Wayne Smith, who was

a young U.S. diplomat in Havana in 1961 when relations were severed and who returned as the chief American diplomat after they were partially re-established under President Jimmy Carter.

“We talk to the Russians, we talk to the Chinese, we have normal relations even with Vietnam. We trade with all of them,” Smith said. “So why not with Cuba?”

In the White House, the first sign of the looming embargo

came when President John F. Kennedy told his press secretary to go buy him as many H. Upmann Cuban cigars as he could find. The aide came back with 1,200 stogies.

Kennedy announced the embargo on Feb. 3, 1962, citing “the subversive offensive of Sino-Soviet communism with which the government of Cuba is publicly aligned.”

It went into effect four days later at the height of the Cold War, a year removed from the failed CIA-backed Bay of Pigs

invasion meant to oust communism from Cuba and eight months before Soviet attempts to put nuclear missiles on the island brought the two superpowers to the brink of war.

Washington already had some limited sanctions in place, but Kennedy’s decision was the beginning of a comprehensive ban on U.S. trade with the island that has remained more or less intact ever since.

Little was planned to mark Tuesday’s anniversary, but Cuban-American members of Con-

gress issued a joint statement vowing to keep the heat on Cuba.

Supporters of the policy acknowledge that many U.S. strategic concerns from the 1960s have been consigned to the dustbin of history, such as halting the spread of Soviet influence and keeping Fidel Castro from exporting revolution throughout Latin America. But they say other justifications remain, such as the confiscation of U.S. property in Cuba and the need to press for greater political and personal freedoms on the island.

## Chairman, 3 others out in Yahoo board shake-up

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Yahoo Chairman Roy Bostock and three longtime board members are stepping down, submitting to the demands of many frustrated shareholders who blame them for contributing to the follies that have dragged down the Internet company’s revenue and stock price.

The shake-up announced Tuesday continues a drastic makeover of Yahoo’s leadership during the past month as the company negotiates to sell its Asian assets in a complex deal that could help ignite a long-promised turnaround.

After Yahoo hired former PayPal executive Scott Thompson as its CEO a few days into the new year, co-founder Jerry Yang resigned from the board and severed all other ties with the company that he helped start in 1995.

Now Bostock is departing after four years as chairman. Many shareholders still blame him and Yang for squandering an oppor-

tunity to sell Yahoo to Microsoft Corp. in May 2008 for \$47.5 billion, or \$33 per share. Yahoo’s stock hasn’t traded above \$20 in nearly 3 1/2 years. The shares closed Tuesday at \$15.83, up by a penny, then added another 9 cents in extended trading.

Bostock, a former advertising executive, more recently has been attacked for not moving more aggressively to fix the problems that have caused Yahoo to sink into a deeper financial rut while the fortunes of two major rivals, Google Inc. and Facebook Inc., have soared.

“It was time for him to leave the scene,” said B. Riley & Co. analyst Sameet Sinha.

In a move that will give Thompson an even cleaner slate as he tries to come up with a new strategy, Yahoo board members Vyomesh Joshi, Arthur Kern and Gary Wilson also agreed not to seek re-election at Yahoo’s shareholders meeting this June.

Kern, a former radio station

owner, has been on Yahoo’s board for more than 15 years. Wilson, a former airline executive, has been a director since 2001, and Joshi, a Hewlett-Packard Co. executive, has been a director since 2005.

“These changes are long overdue,” said Ryan Jacob, portfolio manager of Jacob Asset Management, which owns more than 140,000 Yahoo shares. “It had gotten to the point where the board really didn’t have any other choice. I think everyone needed a clean break.”

With the housecleaning, Yahoo will be left with seven directors, all of whom have joined the board since the end of 2009. That list includes the two latest directors appointed Tuesday: Alfred Amoroso, former CEO of TV listings provider Rovi Corp., and Maynard Webb Jr., a former eBay Inc. executive who most recently was CEO of LiveOps Inc., which helps to staff customer call centers.



AP  
Commuters ride past a billboard that reads in Spanish, “70 percent of Cubans have been born under the Embargo,” in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday Feb. 7, 2012. The United States economic embargo on Communist-run Cuba turned 50 on Tuesday.

## Bernanke: Job market remains weak despite gains

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Ben Bernanke says the job market isn’t as strong as the steadily declining unemployment rate might suggest.

Responding to questions at a Senate hearing Tuesday, he noted that the unemployment rate doesn’t capture the plight of millions of people who have stopped looking for work or part-timers who can’t find full-time jobs.

His cautious view helps explain why the Federal Reserve plans to hold interest rates at record lows until late 2014. Many economists were looking to see if Bernanke might waver on that stance after Friday’s news that hiring surged in January and the unemployment rate to a three-year low of 8.3 percent.

The Fed chairman stuck with the three-year time line.

None of the senators asked Bernanke whether the encouraging job figures were reason enough for the Fed to rethink holding interest rates low for

that long. And Bernanke didn’t tout the hiring data during the two-hour hearing.

If anything, Bernanke maintained the Fed’s position: the economy is improving at a frustratingly slow pace and that low rates are necessary to boost growth.

Bernanke agreed with Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, that an unemployment rate of 8.3 percent is understating the jobs problem.

“It’s very important to look not just at the unemployment rate, which reflects only people who are actively seeking work,” Bernanke said.

“There are also a lot of people who are either out of the labor force because they don’t think they can find work. ... There are also a lot of people who are working part-time, and they’d like to be working full-time but they can’t find full-time work.”

The Fed has kept its benchmark interest rate near zero for the past three years. In its policy

statement in January, the Fed said it would probably not increase that rate until late 2014 at the earliest—a year and a half later than it had previously said.

During the hearing, Republicans repeated familiar concerns. They said keeping rates down could raise the risk of inflation. And low rates punish traditional savers.

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Penn., acknowledged that the Fed has a dual mandate, to both lower unemployment and keep inflation from rising too quickly. But he questioned whether the Fed’s priorities were right, given that unemployment is expected to stay high for several years.

“You have this tension between these two simultaneous objectives,” Toomey said. He suggested the Fed focus on a single mandate of keeping inflation low.

Bernanke said Fed officials were aware of the risks and were closely monitoring inflation, which he said was low and falling.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Delta reports strong revenue, operations in January

Delta Air Lines yesterday reported strong revenue and operations for January 2012. For January 2012, consolidated passenger unit revenue (PRASM) increased 14.5 percent compared to the prior year period, as the company’s capacity discipline and revenue momentum contributed to a strong increase in yields. All regions generated double-digit unit revenue gains, with the strongest performance in the domestic and transatlantic regions. For the month, system load factor increased 2.3 points to 77.5 percent. Delta employees delivered excellent operational performance for their customers. The company’s preliminary DOT on-time arrival rate of 86.4 percent was 11.8 points higher year-over-year and its mainline completion factor increased 5.2 points to 99.4 percent. The company’s financial and operational performance is detailed below. (PR)

#### Consumer borrowing rose \$19.3 billion in December

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Americans accelerated their borrowing in December for the sec-

ond straight month, running up more credit card debt and taking out loans to buy cars and attend school. Consumer borrowing rose by \$19.3 billion in December after a \$20.4 billion gain in November, the Federal Reserve said Tuesday. The two increases were the biggest monthly gains in a decade. Total consumer borrowing is now at a seasonally adjusted \$2.5 trillion. That nearly matches the pre-recession borrowing level. And it is up 4.4 percent from the September 2010 post-recession low.

#### Job openings jump to near a 3-year high

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The number of available jobs in the United States jumped in December to near a three-year high, supporting other data that show a brighter outlook for hiring. Companies and governments posted 3.38 million jobs in December, the Labor Department said Tuesday. That’s up from the 3.12 million advertised in the previous month and nearly matches the three-year high reached in September. Job openings in the private sector reached the highest point in almost three and a half years.



### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
12,878.20  
+33.07  
+0.26%

**S&P**  
1,347.05  
+2.72  
+0.20%

**NASDAQ**  
2,904.08  
+2.09  
+0.07%

### EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9235
British Pound	0.6284
Canadian Dollar	0.9942
Chinese Yuan	478.55
Euro	0.7528

Hong Kong Dollar	7.754
Indian Rupee	49.04
Indonesian Rupiah	8977.12
Japanese Yen	77.052
Malaysian Ringgit	2.9987
New Zealand Dollar	1.1932

Philippine Peso	42.23
Singapore Dollar	1.2419
South Korean Won	1115.7
Swiss Franc	0.9112
Taiwan Dollar	29.479
Thailand Baht	30.735



# Nation

## Jubilant Santorum wins Minn., challenges in Colo.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A resurgent Rick Santorum won Minnesota's Republican presidential caucuses with ease Tuesday night and challenged Mitt Romney in Colorado, raising fresh questions about the front-runner's appeal among the ardent conservatives at the core of the party's political base.

Santorum triumphed, as well, in a nonbinding Missouri primary that was worth bragging rights but no delegates.

"Conservatism is alive and well in Missouri and Minnesota," the jubilant former Pennsylvania senator told cheering supporters in St. Charles, Mo. Challenging both his GOP rival and the Democratic president, he declared that on issues ranging from health care to "Wall Street bailouts, Mitt Romney has the same positions as Barack Obama."

Returns from 83 percent of Minnesota's precincts showed Santorum with 45 percent support, Texas Rep. Ron Paul with 27 percent and Romney—who won the state in his first try for the nomination four years ago—with 17 percent. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich trailed



Republican presidential candidate former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum speaks during a primary night watch party Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, in St. Charles, Mo.

with 11 percent.

Romney prevailed in both Minnesota and Colorado in 2008, the first time he ran for the nomination, but the GOP has become more conservative in both states since then under the influence of tea party activists. And he lacked the overwhelming advantage in television advertising, including fiercely negative attacks on his rivals, that had helped him in other

states this year.

In Colorado, with returns counted from 55 percent of the precincts, Romney and Santorum each had 36 percent, Santorum claiming a scant 14-vote margin. Gingrich had 14 percent, and Paul trailed with 13 percent.

Romney showed no sign of disappointment in remarks to supporters.

"This was a good night for

Rick Santorum. I want to congratulate Sen. Santorum, but I expect to become the nominee with your help," he told supporters in Denver.

If the night was good for Santorum, it was grim for Gingrich, who made scant effort in any of the states that voted during the day. He ran far off the pace in both caucus states, forced to watch from the sidelines while Santorum boasted

of being the candidate with conservative appeal.

There were 37 Republican National Convention delegates at stake in Minnesota and 33 more in Colorado, and together, they accounted for the largest one-day combined total so far in the race for the GOP nomination.

The victories were the first for Santorum since he eked out a 34-vote win in the lead-off Iowa caucuses a month ago, and he reveled in the moment. "I don't stand here to be the conservative alternative to Mitt Romney. I stand here to be the conservative alternative to Barack Obama," he told his supporters.

He had faded far from the lead in the primaries and caucuses since, and Gingrich seemed to eclipse him as the leading conservative rival to Romney when he won the South Carolina primary late last month.

While Romney throttled back after victories in Florida and Nevada in the past several days, Santorum campaigned aggressively in all three states on the ballot, seeking a breakthrough to revitalize his campaign.

He won Minnesota largely the way he did Iowa, dispatching his

organizers from the first state to the second and courting pastors and tea party leaders alike.

Romney's campaign moved swiftly to take the sting out of the Missouri vote. The state's Republican Sen. Roy Blunt, a Romney supporter, congratulated the winner but noted the state's delegates are still up for grabs. He said, "Mitt Romney has the organization and the resources to go the distance in this election, and I believe he'll ultimately win our party's nomination."

And it was not clear where Santorum could exploit his victory. Aides have already said he has little hope in Maine caucuses that end this weekend, the next event on the calendar.

Paul, a Texas lawmaker, has yet to win a primary or caucus. He claimed credit for a strong second-place finish in Minnesota and said he was optimistic about his chances in Maine.

Romney began the day the leader in the delegate chase, with 101 of the 1,144 needed to capture the nomination at the Republican National Convention this summer in Tampa. Gingrich had 32, Santorum 17 and Paul nine.

## Abortion, birth control grab political spotlight

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Political turmoil over abortion and birth control spread suddenly on Tuesday. A high-ranking official resigned from the Komen breast-cancer charity after its backtracking treaty with Planned Parenthood, and Republican presidential candidates blistered the Obama administration for a recent ruling on Catholic hospitals and contraception.

The White House made a point of declaring it wanted to ease the concerns of church-affiliated employers—many would be required to provide birth control coverage to their workers under the new rules—but there was no word on how those concerns might be addressed.

The two-track drama pumped new furor into longstanding disputes that sometimes take a backseat in political campaigns because the lines are so familiar and firmly drawn. Last week's Komen-Planned Parenthood dispute stirred many women's groups that support legal abortion. And the Obama ruling touched a nerve with moderate Roman Catholics who support contraceptives but also defend their church's right to run its hospitals and other institutions according to religious convictions.

Republican presidential candidates pounced on what they considered a blunder by President Barack Obama. They believe his administration's ruling will alienate moderate Catholic

voters who could prove crucial in November in Ohio, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

There also could be political repercussions from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure controversy. The breast-cancer charity, facing fierce criticism, mostly from women's groups, quickly overturned its decision to cut off funding to Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood is a major provider of abortions, but it also screens women for breast cancer and other health problems.

In Atlanta, Karen Handel, a Komen vice president who played a role in the fund cutoff decision, resigned Tuesday. A Republican who ran for governor in Georgia, Handel was seen by some as an example of what they felt was an increasing tendency by Komen to bring partisan politics into the charity's decisions.

"I am deeply disappointed by the gross mischaracterizations of the strategy, its rationale and my involvement in it," Handel said in her resignation letter.

Presidential candidate Mitt Romney, for his part, said he supported Komen's original decision to stop funding Planned Parenthood.

The arguments came as the GOP presidential hopefuls campaigned in several states and Republicans voted in Colorado and Minnesota. Each candidate tried to take advantage of the unusually intense focus on reproductive issues.

## Obama's inner geek: robots to flying marshmallows

WASHINGTON (AP)—For a president who promotes technology at every opportunity, Barack Obama often strikes an awed, self-effacing pose in the presence of technicians, scientists and high tech machinery.

"If I'm nodding, you should just assume that everything you said is going completely over my head," he once told winners of a New York science fair.

Still, he loves the stuff.

At no point has his inner geek been more evident than on Tuesday as he mischievously—"The Secret Service is going to be mad at me about this"—helped fire an eighth-grader's award winning high-speed marshmallow air cannon at the drapes of the White House's elegant State Dining Room.

From factory floors to classrooms, from high-tech centers to the White House residence itself, Obama steeped himself



President Barack Obama reacts after watching a marshmallow launched from a gun designed by Joey Hudy, left, of Phoenix, Ariz., left, in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, during the White House Science Fair.

in the innovative, sometimes feigning interest while at others showing genuine delight.

He dons safety goggles to tour manufacturing plants with state of the art equipment. He steps gingerly around scooting robots built by teenage engineers.

And, like many a dad, he helps his daughters with their science projects, even dropping eggs from the White House's Truman Balcony to test the optimal soft landing.

To be sure, touring factories and schools is a staple of presi-

dencies. But Obama, a Harvard University-trained lawyer, has placed greater emphasis on technology by making the point that in an era of scarce resources, government still must play a role investing in three key areas: research and development, innovation and education.

On Tuesday, Obama hosted the second White House Science Fair, an exhibit of more than 30 student projects that ranged from a system to detect nuclear threats to a prosthetic hand to portable disaster shelters. For nearly an hour, Obama toured the displays and visited with students, pressing them for details and admiring their work.

At factory or fair, Obama's reaction can range from bemusement to enchantment.

During a recent trip to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Obama examined an enormous conveyor screw used to transport foodstuffs.

food science at Penn State, who was not involved in the report.

According to the CDC, breads and rolls account for about 7 percent of the salt that the average American eats in a day. Next on the list: cold cuts and cured meats; pizza; fresh and processed poultry; soups; fast-food hamburgers and sandwiches and cheese.

Rounding out the list—and accounting for about 3 percent each—are spaghetti and other pasta dishes; meatloaf and other meat dishes and snacks like potato chips and pretzels.

## CDC: Bread beats out chips as biggest salt source

ATLANTA (AP)—Bread and rolls are the No. 1 source of salt in the American diet, accounting for more than twice as much sodium as salty junk food like potato chips.

That surprising finding comes in a government report released Tuesday that includes a list of the top 10 sources of sodium. Salty snacks actually came in at the bottom of the list compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Potato chips, pretzels, and

popcorn—which we think of as the saltiest foods in our diet—are only No. 10," said CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden.

Breads and rolls aren't really saltier than many of the other foods, but people tend to eat a lot of them, said Mary Cogswell, a CDC senior scientist who co-authored the report.

Salt is the main source of sodium for most people, and sodium increases the risk of high blood pressure, a major cause of heart disease and stroke. Health

officials say most Americans get too much salt, mostly from processed and restaurant foods—not added from the salt shaker.

Experts have known that the sodium in breads and certain other foods can add up, but even CDC officials were amazed that just 10 foods are responsible for 44 percent of the sodium consumed.

"It's possible to eat a whole bunch of sodium without it seeming salty," noted John Hayes, an assistant professor of



# Asia

## Death toll in Philippine earthquake rises to 22

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Dozens of people were still missing Tuesday following a strong earthquake that triggered landslides and damaged buildings and roads on a central Philippine island. The death toll reached 22, but officials said it was likely to rise further as rescuers struggle to reach remote areas.

Monday's magnitude-6.9 quake also collapsed bridges on Negros Island, forcing soldiers and firefighters to hike mountains to reach remote villages. Most of the confirmed deaths were in Planas village, a part of Guihulngan town where some 30 houses were buried under concrete debris.

Benito Ramos, head of the Office of Civil Defense, said

by telephone that the number of dead from the earthquake had risen to 22. Most of the new deaths were injured victims who died in the hospital, he said.

But Adrian Sedillo, a disaster council officer in Negros Oriental province, said the death toll was likely to rise. There were reports of at least 14 more deaths, but the number will be added to the official count only after authorities verify that the bodies have been recovered, he said.

One of the dead not yet included in the count was a young woman whose body was dug out of a landslide in the mountain village of Solongon in La Libertad town. An unknown number of people were trapped there when a part

of the mountain collapsed on about 100 houses.

Manila's ABS-CBN television showed footage of the woman's parents wailing at the landslide site after her body was retrieved late Tuesday by soldiers using shovels. The report said the woman had managed to send a text message to her relatives hours earlier telling them she was still alive and pleading for rescuers to hurry.

Guihulngan Mayor Ernesto Reyes said crews were using backhoes to try to rescue people, but he added that at the rate deaths were being reported, the town may run out of coffins.

The damage may be worse than officials realized because the quake cut off communications to some villages,

Reyes said.

"We have no water and power because electric posts were toppled," he told The Associated Press by phone. "Many of our roads were damaged, including bridges, and stores are closed. We're isolated."

President Benigno Aquino III will fly to Dumaguete city on Negros Island on Wednesday to inspect areas damaged from the quake and meet with victims of the temblor, his spokesman Edwin Lacierda said.

Aquino ordered air force helicopters and navy and coast guard vessels to come to the aid of rescuers, some of whom were

digging with picks and shovels to look for survivors.

Workers were clearing and fixing roads and bridges leading up from the coast to mountains so heavy equipment, food and medicine could flow to the worst-hit villages.

The quake was caused by movement in an undersea fault 44 miles (72 kilometers) north of Dumaguete, the capital of Negros Oriental province, and about 400 miles (650 kilometers) southeast of the nation's capital, Manila. It hit at a depth of 29 miles (46 kilometers).

With at least 82 people still missing, many of them in land-

slides that buried homes, the casualties could top a 2004 quake on Mindoro Island, south of Manila. Seventy-eight people died there in 2004, about half of them in a quake-triggered tsunami. A local tsunami alert was issued following Monday's temblor but was soon canceled.

The Philippines is in the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where earthquakes and volcanic activity are common. The damage and casualties are compounded by shoddy construction in the impoverished nation. A magnitude-7.7 quake killed nearly 2,000 people in northern Luzon in 1990.

## Age, military ties mark Kim Jong Un's inner circle

**PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)**—Wherever North Korea's young new leader goes, they're there: a group of gray-haired military and political officials who shadow Kim Jong Un as he visits army bases, attends concerts and tours schools.

As Kim Jong Un steps into the role of "supreme commander" less than two months after his father's death, these officials can be seen in the background. They listen attentively as their leader speaks during "guidance visits" and stand at his side during group photos, smiling and clapping.

Since Kim Jong Il died of a heart attack in December, Kim Jong Un has assumed the mantle of leadership with apparent confidence. But this aging circle of advisers is never far behind, lending the young man gravitas and experience while making clear that he has the backing of the powerful military.

The world has been watching for signs of trouble as Kim, believed to be in his late 20s, leads North Korea just three years after he was tapped to be his father's successor.

His ascension comes at a deli-

cate time. Kim Jong Il died as diplomats were in the midst of negotiating with Washington on much-needed aid to alleviate a chronic food shortage. There were also discussions between North Korea and its neighbors on the prospect of restarting nuclear disarmament negotiations.

The show of support by the nation's core military and political leadership settles a major question about the new era under Kim Jong Un: Kim Jong Il's "military first" policy will remain in place. And it's clear that these men, many now in their 70s and 80s, will continue to advise Kim Jong Un after years of working with his father and even his grandfather, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung.

The "central" leadership stepped into the spotlight most vividly during Kim Jong Il's funeral in a tableau watched as closely here in Pyongyang as it was in Seoul and Washington for signs indicating who is in power in North Korea's opaque political system.

On that day, in a swirl of snow, eight men accompanied the black limousine bearing Kim's flag-draped coffin: Kim

Jong Un and seven elderly men who represent the topmost levels of North Korea's military and political circles.

At the front of the hearse, opposite Kim Jong Un, walked Ri Yong Ho, vice marshal of the Korean People's Army and the military's General Staff chief.

Ri wields power from his position at the intersection of three crucial institutions: the Korean People's Army, the Central Military Commission of the ruling Workers' Party and the Standing Committee of the party's influential Political Bureau.

While the Workers' Party of Korea has served as the backbone of the power structure since Kim Il Sung founded the country in 1948, Kim Jong Il elevated the military when he became leader after his father's death in 1994.

Ri, who has operational control of the army, also oversees an influential Kim Jong Un support group comprising officers in their 50s and 60s who commanders consider rising stars, according to Ken Gause, a North Korea specialist at CNA, a U.S.-based research organization.

clashes between the army and police over his decision to arrest a top judge. President Mohammed Waheed Hassan, who was sworn in Tuesday, called for chaos on the streets to stop and for citizens of this Indian Ocean island nation to work together after months of political turmoil. "I urge everyone to make this a peaceful country," he said.

### Deaths from factory collapse in Pakistan up to 21

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—A senior rescue official says the death toll from a factory that collapsed in an eastern Pakistani city and trapped dozens has risen to 21. Rizwan Naseer said on Wednesday that rescue workers saved a young man, Ghulam Abbas, who had spent 47 hours trapped under the rubble of the factory in the city of Lahore. Abbas says there were still women and children alive under the pile of debris who needed immediate help.



In this photo taken on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, a resident takes a detour due to a damaged bridge at Guihulngan township, Negros Oriental province in central Philippines after Monday's magnitude-6.9 earthquake shook at least three central Philippine provinces.

## Officials: US missiles kill 8 people in Pakistan

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)**—U.S. drone-fired missiles hit a house in Pakistan's northwest tribal region near the Afghan border Wednesday, killing eight people, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

The attack occurred in Spalg village in the North Waziristan tribal area, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The identities of those killed were unknown, but the area is dominated by Hafiz Gul Bahadur, a prominent militant commander focused on fighting foreign troops in Afghanistan.

The U.S. does not publicly discuss details of the covert CIA-run drone program in Pakistan.

The program has caused tensions with Pakistan. Although the government is widely believed to have provided support for the strikes in the past, that cooperation has become strained as its relationship with Washington has deteriorated.

Pakistan kicked the U.S. out of a base used by American drones last year in retaliation for American airstrikes that ac-

cidentally killed 24 Pakistani troops at two Afghan border posts on Nov. 26.

The move is not expected to significantly impact drone operations, but the pace of strikes has slowed since the border incident as the U.S. has tried to repair the relationship with Pakistan.

Pakistan also retaliated for the errant airstrikes by closing its Afghan border crossings to supplies meant for NATO troops in Afghanistan.

Pakistani Defense Minister Ahmad Mukhtar said Tuesday that the country should reopen the crossings after negotiating a better deal with the coalition.

He did not provide specific details. But other Pakistani officials have suggested that the government levy additional fees on the coalition for using the route because the heavy trucks damage roads.

The closure has forced the United States to spend six times as much money to send supplies to Afghanistan through alternative routes.

Pakistan's parliament is expected to vote on a revised

framework for relations with the U.S. in mid-February that could pave the way for the government to reopen the supply line.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said last week that she didn't think it would be much of a problem to reopen the route after the parliament vote.

The defense minister echoed this view, saying, "I think the people who are deciding, who are giving recommendations, will make the right decision."

For most of the 10-year war in Afghanistan, 90 percent of supplies shipped to coalition forces came through Pakistan, via the port of Karachi. But over the past three years, NATO has increased its road and rail shipments through an alternate route that runs through Russia and Central Asia. The northern route was longer and more expensive, but provided a hedge against the riskier Pakistan route.

Before the accidental American airstrikes on Nov. 26, about 30 percent of non-lethal supplies for U.S. and coalition troops in Afghanistan traveled through Pakistan.



### ASIAN BRIEFS

### Mom in central China gives birth to 15 pound baby

**BEIJING (AP)**—A mother in central China has given birth to a 15.52 pound (7.04 kilogram) baby, possibly the largest newborn on record since the country's founding in 1949. The state-run Tianjin Post said Tuesday that the 29-year-old mother in Henan province gave birth to the boy Saturday by cesarean section. It said delivery took just 20 minutes and both mother and the baby, named Chun Chun, are doing fine. The paper said Chun Chun's parents are average size and there was nothing unusual about his mother's pregnancy or diet.

### New Maldives president calls for calm after clash

**MALE, Maldives (AP)**—The Maldives' new president promised to protect his predecessor from retribution after he stepped down amid protests and



## World

## Egypt's ruling generals play risky game with US

**CAIRO (AP)**—Egypt's ruling generals are playing a risky game of brinkmanship by cracking down on American nonprofit groups that promote democracy, threatening a relationship with Washington that has brought the military billions of dollars in aid over the past three decades.

The generals may be betting the U.S. cannot afford to cut relations with Egypt—a cornerstone of American Mideast policy. But the ruling military council may also fear it has much more than foreign aid to lose if it fully embraces a democratic transition that could bring civilian oversight of its substantial financial assets and curb its long-standing domination of politics.

Egypt on Sunday referred 19 Americans, including the son of U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, and 24 other employees of pro-democracy nonprofit groups to trial before a criminal court on accusations they illegally used foreign funds to foment unrest in the country.

Speaking with reporters in downtown Los Angeles, LaHood said his son is safe.

"I talk to him a couple of times a day," said LaHood. "I talked to him this morning—I'll talk to him again this evening. Thank God he is safe. That's about all I'm going to say about that."

The referral came one day after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham

Clinton warned Egypt that failure to resolve the dispute may lead to the loss of American aid.

"I think we have to have every aspect of our relationship with Egypt examined until these people are removed from any indictment and allowed to leave or do whatever they need to do," Republican Sen. John McCain, the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in Washington.

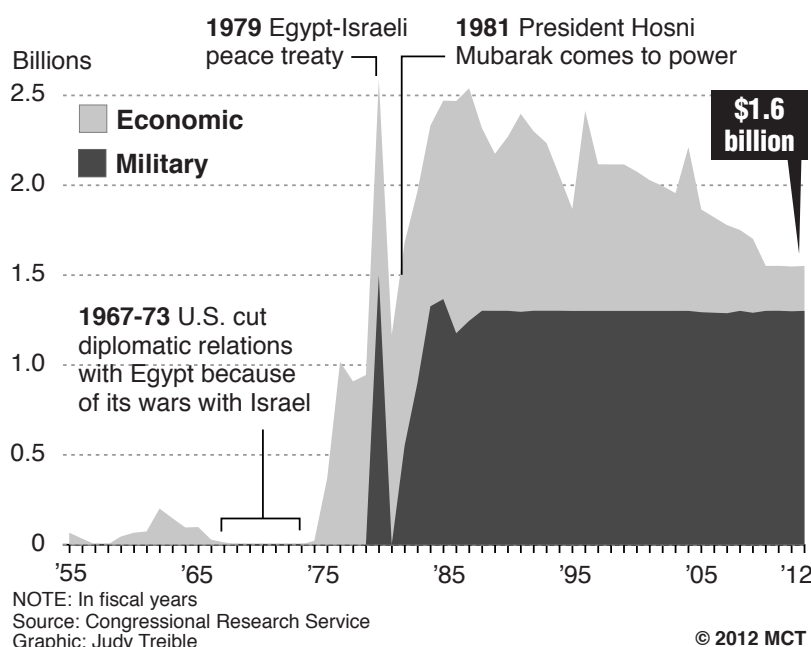
The depth of the tensions was evident when an Egyptian government delegation abruptly canceled meetings in Washington with U.S. lawmakers set for Monday and Tuesday.

"We understand that we have a real strategic interest in keeping good relations with the Egyptians. It's the biggest country in the Arab world," said Sen. Joe Lieberman, an Independent from Connecticut. "But on the other hand, we can't just sit back when Americans get charged and potentially incarcerated for what are trumped up charges, ridiculous," said Lieberman, who together with McCain spoke to reporters after a meeting with the Israeli foreign minister.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, a Democrat from Massachusetts, admonished the Egyptians, calling their referral to trial a "slap in the face to Americans who have supported Egypt for decades and to Egyptian individuals and NGOs who

## U.S. aid to Egypt

*After Egypt signed a 1979 treaty with Israel, U.S. military aid has stayed at about \$1.3 billion while economic aid has varied.*



have put their futures on the line for a more democratic Egypt."

Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy said that Cairo ignores at its own peril a provision he authored about U.S. aid to Egypt. The provision requires the Secretary of State to certify to Congress that Egypt is supporting the transition

to civilian government by holding fair elections and establishing policies "to protect freedom of expression, association, and religion, and due process of law" before Cairo gets \$1.3 billion in military aid this year.

"Unless they're following what we put in the amendment, there's no way they should be getting any money. Right now they're not following what we put in there," Leahy, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Commit-

tee's foreign operations subcommittee, told reporters.

Egypt and the United States have been close allies for more than three decades. But Cairo's campaign against the pro-democracy groups could seriously damage relations with far-reaching ramifications in a region already shaken by the political realignments arising from Arab Spring revolts.

Republican Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, demanded that Egypt return all assets and funds seized in the raids of the NGOs, allow them to reopen their offices and end the investigations and prosecutions.

"The Egyptian government's actions cannot be taken lightly and warrant punitive actions against certain Egyptian officials, and consideration of a cutoff of U.S. assistance to Egypt," she said.

The substantial U.S. military aid to Egypt is linked to its adherence to an American-mediated 1979 peace treaty with Israel, Washington's closest Middle East ally. The preservation of that cold peace has long been a foundation of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Besides the \$1.3 billion in U.S. military aid, Egypt also receives about \$250 million in economic aid every year.

In return, Egypt transformed itself since the 1970s from a one-time Soviet ally hostile to the West into an anchor of U.S. policy in the region, fighting Islamic militancy, mediating in the tortuous Arab-Israeli peace process and assuming a key role in the U.S.-led war against terror.

## Russia pushes Syria reforms as bloodshed mounts

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Days after blocking a U.S.-backed peace plan at the U.N., senior Russian officials pushed for reforms Tuesday during an emergency meeting with Syrian President Bashar Assad, promoting a settlement to end the uprising without removing him from power.

Thousands of flag-waving government supporters cheered the Russians in the Syrian capital of Damascus, while to the north, Assad's forces pounded the opposition city of Homs—underscoring the sharp divisions propelling the country toward civil war.

The violence has led to the most severe international isolation in more than four decades of Assad family rule, with country after country calling home their envoys.

France, Italy, Spain and Belgium pulled their ambassadors from Damascus, as did six Gulf nations, including

Saudi Arabia. Germany, whose envoy left the country this month, said he would not be replaced. The moves came a day after the U.S. closed its embassy in Syria and Britain recalled its ambassador.

Turkey, once a strong Assad supporter and now one of his most vocal critics, added its voice to the international condemnation, with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan saying his country cannot remain silent about massacres in Syria. He said Turkey would "launch a new initiative with countries that stand by the Syrian people instead of the regime."

His comments reflect a growing movement by the U.S., Europe and countries in the region to organize a coalition of nations to back Syria's opposition, though what kind of support remains unclear. Over the weekend, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rod-

ham Clinton called for "friends of democratic Syria" to unite and rally against Assad's regime.

On Tuesday, the Obama administration suggested it might provide humanitarian aid to the Syrian people, but did not specify how or to whom.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov flew into Damascus on Tuesday, accompanied by his foreign security chief, to try to boost a plan that would keep Assad in power, even though many prominent members of the opposition reject that entirely.

"It's clear that efforts to stop the violence should be accompanied by the beginning of dialogue among the political forces," Lavrov said, according to the Russian news agency ITAR-Tass. "Today we received confirmation of the readiness of the president of Syria for this work."

## Argentina president to UK PM: Give peace a chance

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)**—President Cristina Fernandez said Tuesday that Argentina will formally complain to the U.N. Security Council that Britain has created a serious security risk by sending one of its most modern warships to the disputed Falkland Islands.

She accused British Prime Minister David Cameron of militarizing their nations' dispute over sovereignty of the South Atlantic archipelago, which Argentines say the British stole from them nearly 180 years ago.

Argentines are united in their desire to win back the islands they call the Malvinas through diplomacy and negotiation, she said, urging Cameron to "give peace a chance."

"We have suffered too much vio-

lence already to be attracted to military games and wars," Fernandez said in a nationally broadcast address. "No land should end up being a trophy of war."

Britain says it originally discovered and owned the islands a century before Argentina existed. The Spanish crown claimed them for years, and then an independent Argentina held them before Britain seized them in 1833, driving off the gauchos and bringing colonists down from Britain.

Seven generations of "kelpers" have made their homes on the remote, wind-swept islands ever since, growing to a population of 3,100 people determined to remain a British dependency.

London's tabloids and British leaders have spent weeks depicting Argentina as dangerous and belligerent 30 years

after its 1976-83 dictatorship launched a brief war that killed 649 Argentines and 257 Britons. Britain routed the ill-prepared South Americans, humiliating the junta and hastening Argentina's return to democracy.

In the lead-up to Argentina's invasion on April 2, 1982, large crowds turned out in favor of the military, heeding calls to donate their family jewelry for the war effort. Fernandez said the junta and its media allies were to blame for drumming up this groundswell of support, and insisted that most Argentines never wanted war.

Fernandez decreed Tuesday night that a long-secret analysis of the junta's failures be made public in 30 days, and said it will prove the junta was to blame.

## Chavez's opponents gear up for Venezuela vote

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**—Outmatched time and again at the polls by President Hugo Chavez, Venezuelan's opposition leaders are trying a new strategy to unseat the populist leader this year, holding the nation's first presidential primary to choose the strongest challenger.

The front-runner in Sunday's election is Henrique Capriles, a 39-year-old state governor who has won a large following as a youthful alternative to the 57-year-old Chavez. Capriles, an avid jogger who plays pickup basketball games with supporters, has crowd appeal that makes him a formidable adversary.

Sometimes wearing a baseball hat emblazoned with the yellow, blue and red stripes of Venezuela's flag, Capriles has pledged both to help the poor and be a friend to business. He describes himself as a center-left progressive, saying he admires the approach of former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Other contenders range from Pablo Perez, a popular state governor, to Maria Corina Machado, a congresswoman who is the most forceful in her criticisms of Chavez and his effort to bring socialism to Venezuela. Whoever wins the primary is likely to give Chavez the toughest electoral fight of his more than 13 years in office.

In the past, Chavez has capitalized on his opponents' mistakes. He saw his popularity grow after a failed 2002 coup, swept a 2005 congressional vote boycotted by the opposition and won re-election in 2006 with 63 percent of the vote.

Since then, though, his popularity has slipped as ills such as crime, inflation, and problem-riddled public services have taken a toll.

The once-fractured opposition has been emboldened by a strong showing in 2010 congressional elections, and has united to hold the primary vote at a time when polls show Chavez's adversaries have gained ground.

"The opposition has never been in better shape to defeat Chavez," said Angel Alvarez, director of the Institute of Political Studies at the Central University of Venezuela.

Polls show more than half of Venezuelans still approve of Chavez. But the new batch of opposition challengers are more popular than those who faced Chavez in 1998, 2000 and 2006, Alvarez said.

The top three contenders are all under 45 and represent a new generation of anti-Chavez leaders. After three terms as president, Chavez is less able to paint his opponents as part of the corrupt political establishment he once defeated.

Capriles comes from an upper middle-class family but has managed to make inroads among the poor, who have traditionally been Chavez's support base, by promoting programs including food and housing assistance as governor of Miranda state, which includes part of Caracas.

Capriles also largely avoids direct confrontation with Chavez, seldom mentioning the president by name even when he criticizes him.



# Focus



In this photo taken Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012, a Karen refugee and wife head back home with a basket of leaves they collected at a nearby jungle to make roof inside the Mae La refugee camp in Tha Song Yang district, Tak province northern Thailand. AP

## MAE LA REFUGEE CAMP, Thailand (AP)—

The children who live in this camp for Burmese refugees have known no other life. Neither have many of their parents—or their grandparents.

Yet now, surprisingly rapid reforms and cease-fires under way in Myanmar are opening the prospects for the return of one of the world's largest refugee populations—some 1 million Burmese huddled in frontier camps and hideouts across five countries.

"There's a time for war, and a time for peace. Sixty-three years is long enough for killing," Pastor Simon Htoo told more than 300 young Burmese refugees gathered for morning prayers in a weathered, jungle church in Mae La, a camp near the Myanmar-Thai border. "Hope to see you all soon in our beautiful land."

The looming task for the international community will be massive. One of the least known diaspora of recent times includes an array of ethnic groups and religions—Buddhist, Christian and Muslim—driven from their homeland by oppression of political dissidents

# Reforms in Myanmar may spark refugee return

and brutal military campaigns against Myanmar's minorities.

The fighting and human rights abuses still persist in some areas, and even if stopped, many refugees say the hatreds, suspicions and double-crosses of past decades must be overcome before they feel safe enough to return.

One of the ethnic groups, the Karen, has been waging a guerrilla war for greater autonomy for 63 years from iron-fisted military regimes. The Kachin took up arms again last year.

"Signing a cease-fire is very easy—you can do it in a few minutes—but implementation is a different matter. That depends not on the smiles on their faces, but their sincerity, what is really in their hearts. Maybe it's another trick," Htoo, a Karen Baptist pastor,

said after his sermon in this camp sheltering more than 50,000 refugees.

When they do return, the refugees will emerge from Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Malaysia and China, a refugee mass that with the Iraqis and Afghans ranks among the largest in the world.

Their living conditions vary vastly. In the fetid settlements of Bangladesh, as many as 400,000 illegal Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority, hover on the edge of existence. Others live in a well-established string of U.N.-recognized camps along the Thai border, home to three generations who have spent their entire lives there.

Most would be returning to border regions of razed villages, minefields, traumatized people and almost nonexistent support systems in a country that

is already among the world's poorest. Many fear that with the world quick to applaud Myanmar's reforms, pressure will mount to force them back before conditions are right.

"People in the refugee camps must be given a choice: to go home, stay in Thailand or be resettled abroad. We don't trust Burmese politics because things are still very unclear," says Dr. Cynthia Maung, a refugee doctor they call "Mother Teresa of Burma" whose Thai border clinic has treated thousands. "Nobody is going back now."

Although preliminary plans for repatriation are being discussed among aid organizations and refugee leaders, roughly 1,000 are still fleeing into Thailand every month, says Jack Dunford, veteran head of the Thai Burma Border Consortium, which provides basic food and supplies to the Thai camps.

Thailand insists that there will be no forceful repatriation "until the situation is safe," Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Thani Thongphakdi told The Associated Press. "No time frame has been set for their return."

But in Bangladesh, more than 10,000 are set for repatriation, and negotiations are under way with Myanmar for the rest to follow.

"Right now we are motivating the refugees to return home since we believe the human rights situation has improved," said Firoz Salahuddin, the Bangladesh government official in charge of the repatriation. "But it's a difficult task. Refugees are still fearful and need a lot of persuasion."

Those who qualify can seek resettlement in third countries, which have taken 114,000 from the Asian region since 2005, according to the International Organization for Migration. Of these, 90,000 have gone to the United States, with the others spread among 12 other nations, including Australia, Canada, Sweden and Japan. Up to 18,000 will be resettled this year.

The U.S. government intends to continue supporting both the refugees and increased aid to Myanmar if reforms continue. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who visited

Myanmar in December, said Washington was committed to "helping the refugees for the future in their homeland, so they can become self-reliant after two decades of just being dependent on aid in the camps."

But other donors enthusiastic about the recent changes, notably the European Union, are shifting their focus and funds to Myanmar's heartland, dominated by the Burman majority, and the refugees are feeling the crunch.

Dunford says food distributions will have to be slashed further this year to a "breakpoint" 1,650 calories—well below the World Health Organization minimum daily adult requirement of 2,100. Items for shelter like bamboo and salaries of camp teachers also will be reduced.

In camps like Mae La, a warren of thatch and bamboo huts sprawled below limestone cliffs, everyone closely follows developments in Myanmar with a mix of hope, anxiety, suspicion and indecision.

"I want to go back to my country, but not now. There may be changes in the big cities, but not in the countryside," said May Soe, who fled to Thailand after Burmese soldiers killed her father and raped women in her village.

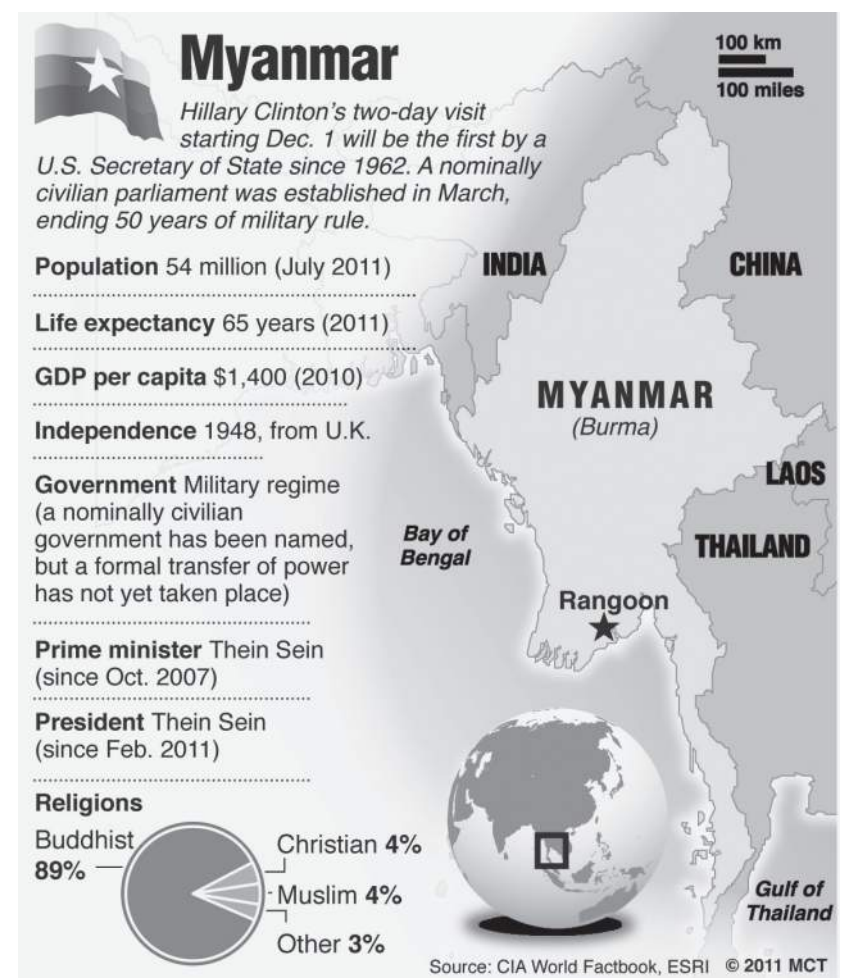
Torn between following her brother to the United States or staying, the 41-year-old medic remained behind to serve in the children's ward of Dr. Cynthia's Mae Tao clinic.

Others, like 36-year-old teacher Saw Wado, are ready to return and help rebuild the country. "We have lived at such a low level for so long that we are not afraid to go home," he said.

The Karen and other ethnic minority Christians have also retained an unwavering faith, more akin to that of the 19th century when they were converted by American missionaries.

At the camp's Care Villa, a shelter for the most severely handicapped, a group of young men—all blinded by land mines, missing arms and legs—joyously belted out a hymn.

"We don't know what the next day will bring, what the future holds for us, but God will lead the way," they sang in flawless part-harmony.





# Environment

## Nature can help lessen flood impacts, says IUCN

**SUVA, Fiji**—While flooding in the western division of Fiji cannot be avoided or prevented, its impacts can be minimized if nature's health is kept intact says IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"Nature itself can help control the destruction caused by natural disasters such as flooding," said Taholo Kami, Regional Director of IUCN Oceania Regional Office. "Ecosystems such as forests, floodplains, wetlands including mangroves provide the natural infrastructure needed to lessen the impacts of flooding".

Previously affected by the floods of 2009, Nadi and its neighboring towns in the west are once again left with a trail of destruction affecting people, infrastructure and the environment.

The flooding has caused the death of six people, destroyed more than 100 homes and is estimated to have affected half the crops and livestock in western Viti Levu. The economic losses are estimated to be above FJD\$17 million.

"We urge the government of Fiji and the town councils of Nadi, Ba and Rakiraki to strengthen their investment in proper management of forests, mangroves and other wetland areas," said Dr. Milika Sobey,



Residents help one another during the recent flooding in the western division of Fiji.

Water and Wetlands Programme Coordinator at IUCN Oceania Regional Office. "If we continue to give way to unsustainable land use practices we risk losing nature's ability to protect us against large floods."

"We give credit to the important work being carried out by SPC's SOPAC division and the Nadi Basin Catchment Committee in implementing a flood

risk management plan for Nadi Basin. We hope this will eventually help manage impacts from flooding."

IUCN's Oceania Regional Office has worked in partnership with SOPAC to implement the "GEF funded Integrated Water Resource Management Demonstration Project" since 2010. Led by the Land and Water Resources Management sec-

tion of the Ministry of Primary Industries, several activities in the flood management plan have been undertaken while others are ongoing.

Logging in catchment areas is one of the main problems iden-

tified by the project.

"Native trees have been planted in the upper catchment and along the river banks in 2011 to minimize the effects of logging," said Dr. Sobey. "Natural floodplains are important in

storing water during floods and can buffer the impact of large floods, by slowing the flow of water and storing water to lower flood peaks."

Other activities already undertaken by the project include installation of retention dams and early flood warning systems, and training of government officials as well as community representatives on ecosystem-based management and disaster-risk reduction.

"The communities of the Nadi Basin have been involved in this work from the start and they have been adequately informed on flood preparedness," said Dr. Sobey.

Other agencies actively implementing the project include the Hydrology Unit of the Water Authority of Fiji, Department of Forestry, Fiji Meteorology Service, Nadi Town Council, Provincial Office, Department of Environment and Fiji's National Disaster Management Office.

Plans for a similar project in Ba is in place. Ba was one of the worst affected towns by the recent flooding. (IUCN)

IWRM NADI BASIN DEMO PROJECT

### DO YOUR PART

## Don't waste those food scraps

BY TERRI BENNETT  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

I consider myself a pretty good gardener, a common sense "greenie", and a person who does her best to reduce, reuse, and recycle. But, there's something I must admit. For years now, I've resisted composting. It just seemed a bit too difficult and bit too time-consuming. That's all changed. And, if I can make it work, you can too. Let me help you Do Your Part to keep food scraps out of the garbage and turn them into something quite valuable.

Sitting on my kitchen counter right now is a cute, white composting pail I received from a good friend for Christmas. It has become one of my all-time favorite presents although the thoughtful gift giver doesn't believe me. Anyway, having this pail right near the kitchen sink makes it downright difficult for me to "justify" scraping plates off in the trash or into the disposal.

Here's the thing. Those little bits of food we so easily trash ultimately account for about a third of the garbage we send to the landfill. This is not only wasteful; it's also bad for the planet. When bacteria in the landfill eat this type of organic waste, methane is produced, which is a powerful climate-altering, greenhouse gas.

Composting your food scraps should not be compli-



"Do Your Part" to keep food scraps out of the garbage and turn them into something quite valuable.

cated. In fact, over-thinking the process has been my problem in the past. And there isn't only one way to make compost. You can designate a corner of your yard to a compost pile, you can buy a compost bin (available in a multitude of shapes and sizes), or you can even find electric units, which turn out a batch of compost every three weeks or so. Pick the system that's best for you and you're on your way to whipping up nutritious food for your plants and garden. And the best part is that this newly made fertilizer is absolutely free!

The key to any good composting system is to keep a balance of green and brown. Green waste is rich in nitrogen and can include most of your food waste and lawn clippings. The brown is carbon-rich items like branches, dried leaves, coffee filters, eggshells, or sawdust. It's im-

portant to remember to have a little more carbon than nitrogen. Every so often, give it a stir to help the decomposition process. The one thing you don't want to do is put meat or dairy products in an outdoor compost pile because it could attract animals. You'll find a quick video to help you get started at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

When the compost is ready, use it to feed your garden plants, lawn, shrubs and trees. And, as you're spreading it all out, you will Do Your Part to keep all that food waste from truly going to waste.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, author, and founder of DoYourPart, everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to [terri@doyourpart.com](mailto:terri@doyourpart.com) and follow DoYourPart on Facebook and Twitter.

### In celebration of his new life Ernesto Dela Rosa Palero

Lovingly known as "Erning"  
May 30, 1952 – February 2, 2012

#### He will now join his:

**Parents:** †Abraham Palero & †Josefa Palero  
**Parents-in-law:** †Rodrigo Perje & †Consuelo Perje  
**Son:** †Edric O. Palero  
**Brother:** †Rufino Palero

#### He will live forever in the hearts of his:

**Wife:** Rosalinda Perje Palero  
**Children:** Larry O. Palero, Ronnie O. Palero, Joana Marie P. Palero & Ira Marie P. Palero

**Daughters-in-law:** Liway P. Palero, Madie A. Palero & Felecesima M. Palero

**Grand Children:** Gwyneth Eazel P. Palero, Patricia May A. Palero, Luke Mark A. Palero & Carlo Miguel A. Palero

**Brothers & Sisters:** Armentario Palero, Emanuel Palero, Nestor Palero, Gregorio Palero, Alfredo Palero, Luzviminda Palero, Lolita Palero & Liza Palero

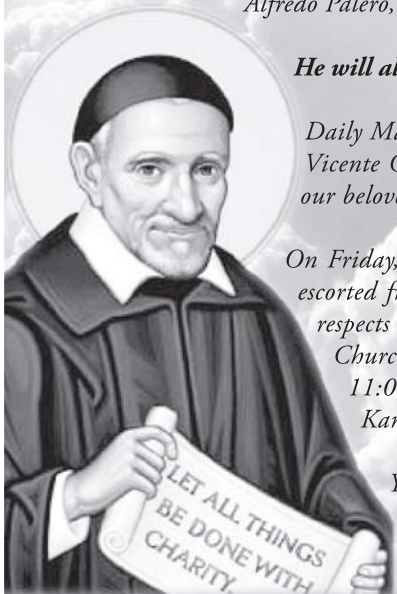
#### He will also be missed by his numerous relatives and friends:

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at 6:00 pm at San Vicente Church. Nightly rosaries are being said at 7:00pm in our beloved's residence in Chalan Piao across Hopwood.

On Friday, February 10, 2012 at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from CHC to San Vicente Church. Viewing and last respects will be held from 8:00am to 10:00am at San Vicente Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

**The Family**





## Life & Style

# Britain marks Charles Dickens' 200th birthday



AP

In this undated file photo, novelist Charles Dickens poses for a photograph. Britain's Prince Charles will lay a wreath Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012 on the writer's grave in Westminster Abbey's Poet's Corner to mark his 200th of birthday.

**LONDON** (AP)—He wrote about life in the modern city, with its lawyers and criminals, bankers and urchins, dreamers and clerks. He created characters still known to millions—Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim, Pip and Miss Havisham, Fagin and Oliver Twist. And it made him a star, mobbed by fans on both sides of the Atlantic.

Britain on Tuesday marked the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens, the first global celebrity author and chronicler of a world of urban inequality that looks a lot like the one we live in today.

"You only have to look around our society and everything he wrote about in the 1840s is still relevant," said Dickens' biographer, Claire Tomalin. "The great gulf between the rich and poor, corrupt financiers, corrupt Members of Parliament ... You name it, he said it."

Dickens' mistrust of the wealthy and compassion for the poor haven't stopped him being embraced by Britain's high and mighty.

Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, joined Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, actor Ralph Fiennes, a host of dignitaries and scores of Dickens' descendants at a memorial service Tuesday in London's Westminster Abbey.

A simultaneous event was held in Portsmouth, southern England, where Dickens was

born, the son of a navy pay clerk, on Feb. 7, 1812. In a message read out there, Charles called Dickens "one of the greatest writers of the English language, who used his creative genius to campaign passionately for social justice."

In London, the heir to the throne laid a wreath of white roses and snowdrops on the writer's grave in Poet's Corner—resting place of national literary icons—and two of Dickens' youngest descendants added a pair of small white posies.

Fiennes read from Dickens' "Bleak House," and there were prayers for the poor and marginalized, and for the writers, artists and journalists chronicling modern society.

Historian Judith Flanders, who attended the service, said it was "enormously moving"—and Dickens would have hated it.

"Dickens said in his will that he wanted no public ceremonies, no statues, no public acknowledgment," said Flanders, author of the forthcoming book "Dickens' London."

"He wanted to be buried and die as a private man. He wanted his books to stand as his monument."

He got his wish. Dickens' novels and characters are more popular than ever.

The Royal Mail has just issued two new stamps featuring Dickens characters. Right now in Britain you can catch up with new television adaptations of

"Great Expectations" and "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," go to an exhibition about Dickens at the Museum of London or visit a theme park called Dickens World. A new film version of "Great Expectations," starring Fiennes and Helena Bonham Carter, is due later this year.

"The quality of the writing is part of why we still relate to him today," said Jo Robinson, a graduate student at King's College London who is researching Dickens. "He's an incredibly vivid writer. He has such an array of characters and there's so much to get out of him ... Each generation sees it in their own way."

Part of Dickens' staying power stems from his incredible productivity. An insomniac who often roamed London's streets by night, he wrote more than 20 books, had 10 children, toured the world on lecture tours and campaigned for social change until his death from a stroke in 1870 at the age of 58.

"He believed he knew London better than any person alive, because he spent so much time walking the streets," said Alex Werner, curator of the exhibition "Dickens and London," running at the Museum of London until June.

Dickens' drive and produc-

tivity were fueled by early poverty. When he was 12, his father was sent to debtors' prison and Dickens went to work in a factory, fixing labels on jars of boot polish.

Those early experiences were reflected in his novels. Dickens exposed the cruelty of workhouses in "Oliver Twist," the harshness of child labor in "David Copperfield," the chasm between the rich and the poor in "A Christmas Carol" and the brutality of the legal system in "Bleak House."

He also was one of the first writers to depict the modern industrial city—a place where

millions of us still live.

Many features of his world are still familiar. The 19th century was an era of fast-paced technological change, and Dickens embraced it. He traveled Britain on newly invented steam trains—though he hated the juddering journeys—and crossed the Atlantic in 1842 on one of the first steamships.

He was also a commercially astute writer. His books were published in monthly installments, in an inexpensive magazine-style format interspersed with ads for everything from "Alpaca Umbrellas" to "the gentleman's real head of hair."

IN CELEBRATION  
OF HIS NEW LIFE

## †Rembert Vincent Manglona Hofschneider

Better known as "Rodney"

Born to Life — April 16, 1962

Born to Eternal Life — February 05, 2012

**In his new life, he now joins his:**

**Father:** †Henry Carl Villagomez Hofschneider

**Father-In-Law:** †Ordorico Deleon Guerrero San Nicolas

**His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:**

**Common-Law Wife:** Vicenta Pangelinan San Nicolas

**Daughter:** Chailing San Nicolas Hofschneider

**Mother:** Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider

**Mother-In-Law:** Carmen Pangelinan San Nicolas

**Brothers/Sisters:**

Edwin M. & Vivian V. Hofschneider

Esther H. & Jeffrey L. Barr

Jeffrey M. & Rosita M. Hofschneider

Arthur M. Hofschneider & Belta M. Pangelinan

Jeanette H. & Joaquin H. Borja

Arlene H. & Jose M. Pangelinan

Donna H. Ada & Ronnie C. Quitano

Annie H. & Juan T. King

Henry Carl M. Hofschneider & Currine C. Cepeda

Donald M. Hofschneider

Tianna Lynn Hofschneider

Heinz Joseph M. Hofschneider

**Brothers/Sisters In-Laws:**

Dolores Antonia P. San Nicolas & John DLG. Cabrera

Dolores SN. & Khokon Ali

Jose P. & Julie D. San Nicolas

Jesse P. & Rose Sylvia C. San Nicolas

Feliciana Q. Hofschneider

**He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended families, and friends.**

Nightly rosary is being offered at 7:00 PM at San Jose Church, Tinian. Funeral service will be held on Monday, February 13, 2012 at San Jose Church, Tinian. His remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church, Tinian, at 8:00 AM. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM.

Interment Services will immediately follow at the San Jose, Tinian Public Cemetery.

**Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.**



# HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies.  
GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

**POWER 99**  
SAIPAN, CMM

**\$6.00** Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM  
**\$6.00** All Day Admission For Seniors  
**\$4.75** All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)  
**\$6.00** Student Admission with Valid I.D.  
**\$6.00** Military with Valid I.D.

## T TIMEWARP TUESDAY

**\$6.00** ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT  
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT [www.gohollywood.com](http://www.gohollywood.com)

**dts**

**DOLBY DIGITAL**

**STADIUM SEATING**  
WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

Friday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> through Thursday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
**OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★



### The Woman in Black

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05	

Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds  
Thriller, Mystery • Rated PG 13

#### Synopsis

A widowed lawyer travels to a secluded village on an important assignment, and encounters a vengeful ghost with mysterious motives. After losing his beloved wife, Arthur Kipps (Daniel Radcliffe) was nearly consumed by grief. When an important client of Arthur's dies, he pulls himself out of mourning to settle the man's affairs. But in this town, everyone has a secret. Something horrible once happened here, and it seems that the locals are determined to ensure Arthur never finds out what it was.



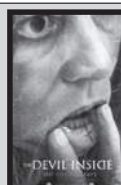
### Chronicle

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10	

Dane DeHaan, Alex Russell  
Thriller • Rated PG 13

#### Synopsis

Three high school students make an incredible discovery, leading to their developing uncanny powers beyond their understanding. As they learn to control their abilities and use them to their advantage, their lives start to spin out of control, and their darker sides begin to take over.



### The Devil Inside

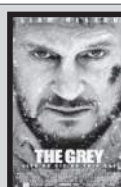
Friday	4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday	4:15	7:15	

Fernanda Andrade, Simon Quarterman  
Horror • Rated R

#### Synopsis

A young woman learns that her mother committed multiple murders while undergoing an exorcism, and she travels to Rome with a film crew on a mission to uncover the truth about that horrific incident in this found-footage-style possession shocker from director William Brent Bell. As a young girl, Isabella Rossi (Fernanda Andrade) had been led to believe that the killings were committed after her mother flew into a psychotic rage. But when Isabella finds evidence indicating that an exorcism was being conducted on her mother at the time, she enlists a film crew to follow her to Italy in search of the truth. In order to gain a better understanding of the spiritual plight that her mother endured, Isabella and her crew attend a series of unsanctioned exorcisms that become increasingly terrifying.

★ ★ ★



### The Grey

Friday	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Frank Grillo  
Adventure • Rated R



### Man On A Ledge

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	7:30	

Sam Worthington, Elizabeth Banks  
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13



### One For The Money

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20	

Katherine Heigl, Jason O'Mara  
Crime, Comedy, Thriller • Rated PG 13



### Underworld: Awakening

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday	4:25	7:25	

Kate Beckinsale, Stephen Rea  
Horror • Rated R

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

[www.gohollywood.com](http://www.gohollywood.com)

# Grammys to feature first dance music segment

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY  
AP MUSIC WRITER

Grammy show producer Ken Ehrlich had considered putting dancing/electronica music into the ceremony in the past, but could never quite figure out how to incorporate the high-energy club feel in front of a sometimes staid audience.

He thinks he's figured it out this year. For the first time, the Grammy show will put the spotlight on the genre with a segment featuring Grammy nominees Deadmau5, the Foo Fighters, Chris Brown, David Guetta and Lil Wayne, all performing in a tent space amid 1,000 fans.

"We decided to go all out this year," Ehrlich said of the perfor-

mance taking place outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles, where Sunday's ceremony will be held. "All we're going to try and do next week is to try and put the home audience in the middle of it. ... It is more than just sitting there and watching it."

Dance music did not receive its own category until 2003 with the best dance recording/dance field, and the music had not been featured with its own segment in the show.

"I don't know that I figured out a way to do it that felt right until now," Ehrlich said in an interview Monday. "My feeling about dance is it's such an immersive experience for the participant, that to put it on stage ... where the audience is

not a part of it ... I don't know, honestly, until we came up with the idea of doing it this way, I don't know if it ever would have worked."

Ehrlich calls the performance the "most ambitious number that we've ever done outside the Staples Center." It will feature at least four cameras from audience level as Deadmau5 (pronounced dead mouse) and the Foo Fighters perform his remixed version of the band's song "Rope," which netted him one of his Grammy nominations, and as Brown and Lil Wayne perform with Guetta.

Ehrlich said the performance reflects the popularity of dance music over the past few years.

"As much as a recorded

medium that it is, and the fact that it's selling a lot of CDs and downloads, it's really a live experience," he said. "It is more than just sitting there and watching it."

Other performers on the show include Adele, Bruce Springsteen, Chris Brown, Paul McCartney and Taylor Swift for what Ehrlich boasted would be a "pretty amazing show."

"What I try and do when we're building this show is to think about the audience first. ... What can I do that's going to keep an audience for 3 1/2 hours watching the Grammy Awards?" he said. "I do try and look for how broad I can make it and still assume that people are going to tune in and stay with it."

# Sir Paul, Elton, other stars to perform for the queen

LONDON (AP)—Some of the world's biggest pop stars will perform in front of Buckingham Palace on June 4 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, palace officials said Tuesday.

The lineup will include former Beatle Paul McCartney, singers Elton John and Shirley Bassey and popular boy band JLS. Longtime favorites Cliff Richard and Tom Jones will also perform.

Concert organizers said that many more stars, including some from America and Australia, will also be on the bill, with details to be released in the coming months.

"It's going to be fun," Elton John said in a video shown to reporters at Buckingham Palace.

The event is a centerpiece in the queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, which have already kicked off to mark her 60 years on the throne.

It follows a raucous Golden Jubilee concert in 2002 that featured a rendition of "God Save the Queen" by Queen guitarist



John

Brian May performed in the open air on the palace roof.

Take That star Gary Barlow, charged with organizing the gala event, said he hopes as many as half a million people are able to see

the concert from the public areas in front of the palace. It will also be broadcast on television and radio.

"The whole world will be watching," he said, while acknowledging it may be hard to top May's performance at the 2002 gala.

"We all remember that and we will try to come up with something newer and better," he said.

Some 10,000 tickets will be awarded by lottery. Tickets will also include entry into the palace garden for a jubilee picnic, with food provided by the palace.

The queen and husband Prince Philip plan to attend along with other senior members of the royal family.

Barlow said that the queen's grandsons Prince Harry and Prince William had suggested some performers who may be added to the list. Officials said the queen is "content" with the musical program.

He said the goal is the have music from all the decades of the queen's reign incorporated into the program.

# Shaq OK with Kobe Bryant ahead in NBA scoring

NEW YORK (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal says he's satisfied being the most dominant Los Angeles Lakers player, and has no problem with former teammate Kobe Bryant passing him on the NBA's career scoring list.

"He's still playing; I'm not playing, so it was good," O'Neal said of Bryant moving into fifth place in NBA scoring during Monday's loss to the Philadelphia 76ers.

"I never wanted to be the best Laker," O'Neal added, "I wanted to be the most dominant. I was that."

The comments were a follow-up to a message O'Neal sent Monday night congratulating Bryant.

O'Neal offered his congratulations on Twitter: "Congrats to Kobe for being the greatest laker ever thanks for making us the greatest laker one two punch ever and congrats on passin me up 2."

The 33-year-old Bryant is the NBA's leading scorer, averaging 29.4 points. He has 28,601 career points and trails Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, Michael Jordan and Wilt Chamberlain.

"It's really a great honor for him and his family," O'Neal said.

O'Neal says playing with Bryant made up "the best eight years of my life," contrary to their often fiery relationship as teammates.

O'Neal described it as "marketing."

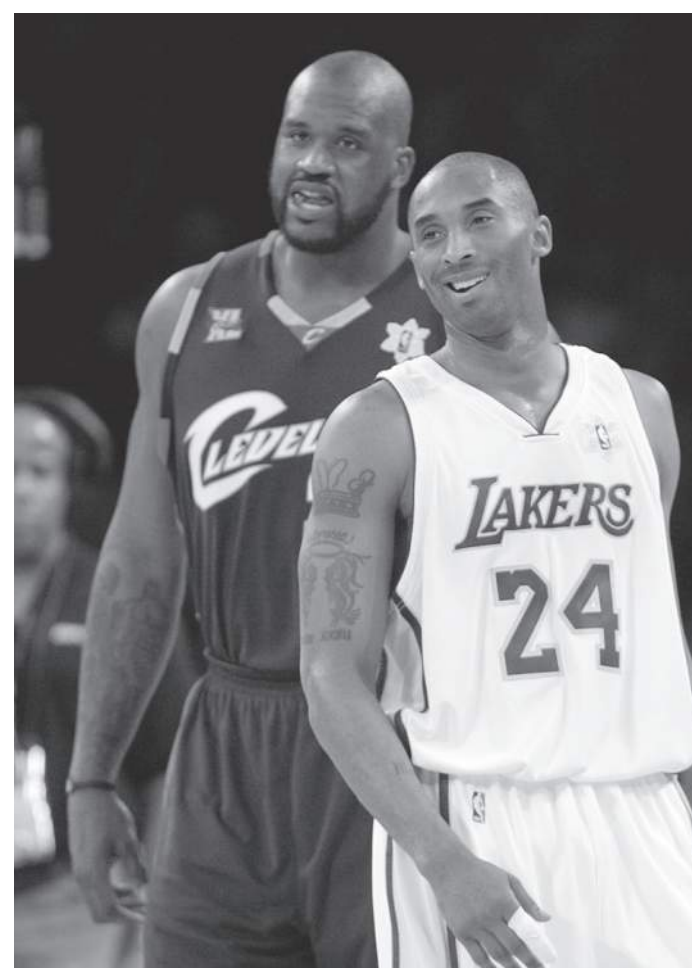
"You know we pushed each other," O'Neal said. "A lot of people thought we really had problems, but the problems I created were just for everyone to look at us, to notice us."

O'Neal said the media often took it further.

"A lot of those guys don't really have personality and to get people to look at their paper they added onto it a little bit," he said.

"It was like a non-TV reality show. People are still talking about it, so obviously I did my job as a marketer."

Later this month, O'Neal will host the second annual Hall of Game Awards. The high-energy, multi-platform experience lets viewers vote for their favorite sports stars and sports moments of the year. It airs Feb. 20 on Cartoon Network.



In this Dec. 25, 2009, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, right, talks to Cleveland Cavaliers' Shaquille O'Neal during an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.



## 3 from Liz Taylor art collection snag \$21.8M

**LONDON (AP)**—Three top works from the late Hollywood star Elizabeth Taylor's art collection have sold at a London auction for nearly 14 million pounds (\$22 million), the auctioneer Christie's said Tuesday.

The lot's biggest-selling item was Van Gogh's "Vue de l'asile de la Chapelle de Remy," which used to hang in the living room of

Taylor's Bel Air home. The tan-and-turquoise landscape was sold for more than 10 million pounds (nearly \$16 million) to an anonymous telephone bidder.

The two other pieces, a self-portrait by Edgar Degas and a landscape by Claude Pissarro, sold earlier in the evening.

Marc Porter, chairman of Christie's Americas, called the works

the "crown jewel" of the showbiz legend's collection, and he said in a statement that the auctioneer hoped for more positive results when it offered the rest of Taylor's art collection Wednesday.

Taylor died in March at age 79, and Christie's has been selling off her possessions piecemeal.

Last month, the auctioneer sold a 17th-century portrait

that once hung over Taylor's fireplace for \$2 million. In December, Christie's sold her collection of jewelry, fashion and memorabilia for well over \$100 million, including \$8.8 million for a diamond ring given to her by Richard Burton, whom she married twice.

Prices include the buyer's premium.

## Coroner rules Don Cornelius' death a suicide

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Coroner's officials on Tuesday ruled Don Cornelius' death a suicide, nearly a week after the "Soul Train" creator and host killed himself with a gunshot to the head.

The agency made the determination after conducting an autopsy on Cornelius' body Friday. Investigators are still awaiting the results of toxicology tests



**Don Cornelius**

Cornelius' Mulholland Drive home early Wednesday morning. His son

before issuing a final report.

Police quickly ruled out foul play after responding to

had alerted authorities after receiving a call from his father.

Cornelius, 75, started "Soul Train" in 1970 and it became one of the longest-running syndicated shows in history, introducing audiences to many top music acts and providing a never-before-seen TV platform for black culture.

The popular host was hon-

ored Saturday in Harlem with a lively celebration in tribute to Cornelius and the wide-ranging influence of his show.

His son, Tony Cornelius, released a statement last week asking for privacy and thanking fans.

"We thank all the well-wishers and the fans who have supported the 'Soul Train' legacy. Love, Peace and Soul," the statement read, incorporating his father's famous sign-off from the show.

## Madonna's first tour since '09 to start in Israel

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Madonna's not finished with stadiums.

Live Nation Entertainment announced Tuesday that the Material Girl's first tour since 2009 will include a Sept. 6 show at Yankee Stadium.

On Sunday, she was the Super Bowl halftime performer at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Her world tour will start May 29 in Tel Aviv, Israel. It will include performances in Istanbul,

Brussels, Helsinki and Zurich.

The North American portion of the tour will include Montreal, San Jose and Cleveland.

The tour will also visit South America and Australia.

Tickets for most of the U.S. shows go on sale Feb. 13.

Madonna's last tour, 2008-2009's "Sticky & Sweet," grossed more than \$400 million.

Her new album, "MDNA," is scheduled for release March 26.

## 2.1 million viewers live stream Super Bowl online

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The first live stream of the Super Bowl drew 2.1 million unique viewers, NBC said Thursday.

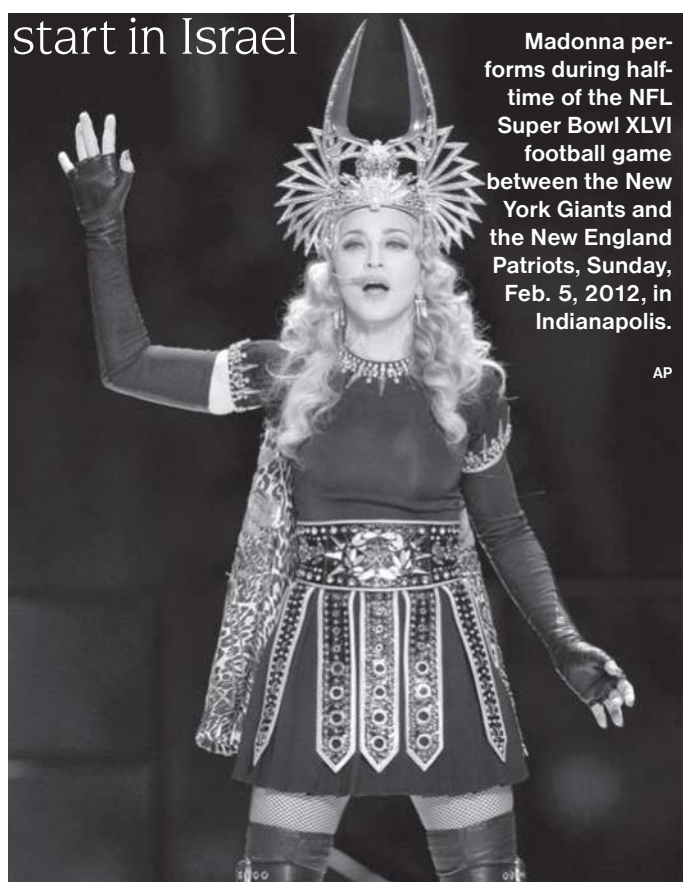
That's a small fraction of the record 111.3 million viewers that watched NBC's broadcast of the big game. But it was still enough to make it the most-watched single-game sports event online, according to the network.

Kevin Monaghan, manag-

ing director of digital media for NBC Sports Group, said the live stream "exceeded our expectations in every way."

The New York Giants 21-17 win over the New England Patriots was streamed on NBCSports.com and NFL.com. The Internet webcast included optional camera views, tweeting from a handful of personalities

and HD-quality video.



Madonna performs during half-time of the NFL Super Bowl XLVI football game between the New York Giants and the New England Patriots, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Indianapolis.

AP

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### E-books by crime writer

#### Jim Thompson coming soon

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Novels by acclaimed crime writer Jim Thompson are coming out as e-books. Mulholland Books announced Tuesday that "The Killer Inside Me," "The Grifters" and other Thompson classics will be released in digital editions this year. The publisher says e-books for 25 of Thompson's 29 novels are planned. Thompson is widely credited with turning the pulp fiction genre into an art form. Sam Peckinpah and Stephen Frears are among those who have made films based on his books. Thompson died in 1977. The publisher is an imprint of Little, Brown and Co.

### NBC hopes Super Bowl influence spreads

**NEW YORK (AP)**—NBC hoped the Super Bowl would prompt viewers to sample a couple of its promising new shows. At least initially, the network is getting its wish. The Nielsen company says the second season of "The Voice" premiered to 37.6 million people right after the Super Bowl on Sunday. The game itself had a staggering audience of 111.3 million, the largest ever for a

television show in the U.S. Perhaps more importantly, "The Voice" had 17.7 million viewers the next night, on Monday, up by 49 percent from its average during the first season. The backstage Broadway drama "Smash" got just under 12 million viewers for its premiere episode on Monday.

### RI judge denies Richard Hatch \$25 IRS payment bid

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)**—A request by reality television star Richard Hatch to give the Internal Revenue Service a reduced payment of \$25 for January in his tax evasion case has been denied by a Rhode Island judge. Court records show the federal judge rejected the request Tuesday. Hatch won the first season of CBS' "Survivor." He served a nine-month sentence for failing to pay back taxes. He was ordered to pay 25 percent of his gross income to the IRS as part of his sentence for violating terms of his supervised release. He sought the reduced payment, saying he'd earned only \$500 since being freed in December. Public defender Mary McElroy says Hatch's accountant and agent take 20 percent of his income and he's saving for an apartment. She says

he's relying on others for housing and basic necessities.

### London premiere for 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'

**LONDON (AP)**—Dame Judi Dench and Dev Patel brought an Indian adventure to a chilly London with the world premiere Tuesday of their new film, "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel." The movie, directed by John Madden, sees a group of retirement age Brits move to India to see out their elderly years in colorful Jaipur. Patel, of "Slumdog Millionaire" fame, plays the guy who entices them to take the adventure. Tom Wilkinson, Bill Nighy and Penelope Wilton were also among the cast out on the red carpet for the event at the Curzon Mayfair in London. "I had to ride a motorcycle through the streets of Jaipur with Judi Dench on the back, which was very, very freaky because I have never done it before and my whole thing became 'Don't kill Judi Dench,'" Nighy joked. Despite her character's choice to retire, it appears that's the last thing on Dench's mind. "I am not going to retire hopefully, I am just going to hope that work will come. If I don't do this, I will do something else," she said.

## Dietary restrictions force woman to fend for herself

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** I was recently diagnosed as gluten intolerant. My question is, when dining at a restaurant, while everyone else is eating the bread that is served, is it acceptable to discreetly take a few gluten-free crackers from my purse and snack on them so I'm not starving while waiting for dinner?

My husband thought it was inappropriate, so I didn't take them.

I did ask the waiter if he had gluten-free bread or crackers, but he didn't. I have many medical issues. I try to eat only what is healthy for me and thought providing my own crackers was a minor deal. What do you think, Abby?

*Dear Abby*

GLUTEN INTOLERANT IN FLORIDA

**DEAR G.I.:** It's good that you were diagnosed, because gluten intolerance can cause serious digestive issues. Your husband may have had a bad day when he criticized you, because I see nothing wrong with someone on a restricted diet taking emergency rations in case a restaurant can't accommodate his or her special needs.

Gluten intolerance has gone undiagnosed in many people, but in recent years food manufacturers have created many products that are safe for them to eat. Accommodating a customer who is gluten intolerant shouldn't be an insurmountable problem if the restaurant is asked in advance.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I was standing in front of a restaurant with my mother-in-law and a group of relatives when she "felt up" my back and backside. We were facing the others when she put her hand around my back, first sideways and then all around until she got down to my rear end. It felt like she was searching for something, but the weather was warm and my blouse was very thin, so I couldn't have hidden anything. When she reached my behind, she pressed her thumb hard on my hipbone and rubbed in a circular motion.

I feel extremely violated because her hand should not be anywhere near that region. My husband says I misinterpreted what she did, but he has no explanation. I think her behavior was incestuous! When she visits, she also insists on sleeping in the master bedroom. Am I overreacting?

VIOLATED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR "VIOLATED":** Unless your mother-in-law insists on sleeping between you and her son when she comes to visit, I do think you're overreacting. What she did was give you a back rub. In most families, a gesture like that is one of affection. Lighten up!

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm planning my son's bar mitzvah, and my ex-husband hasn't lifted a finger to help me. I received two small checks for his portion of the guests who will attend the reception.

My question is, should I put his name on the invitation? Or do I just put my name on it since I'm the one hosting and putting the party together? I want to do the right thing, but I also want it made clear that I did the planning myself.

MITZVAH MAMA IN NEW YORK

**DEAR MITZVAH MAMA:** Be benevolent. For the sake of your child, include your ex-husband's name on the invitation. It isn't necessary to omit it so that you can get the credit. All you need to do is confide in one "yenta" that your son's father is a "schnorrer" and word will get around. Trust me.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

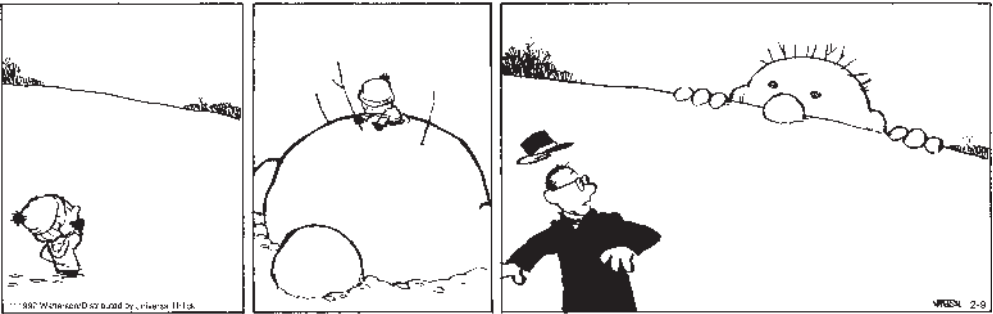
*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.*



Pastimes

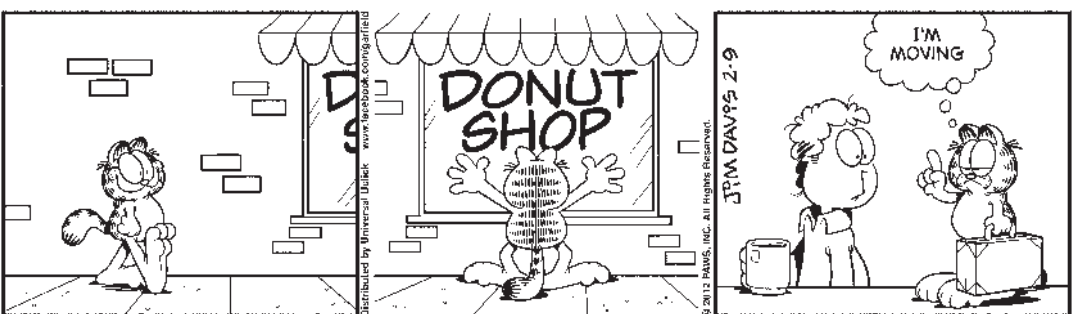
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



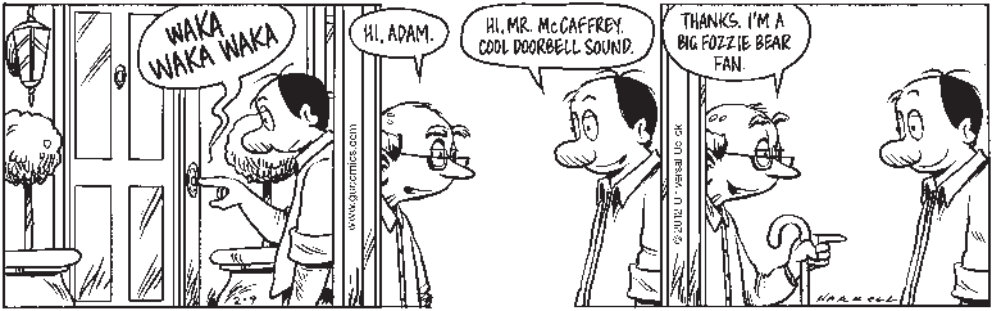
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



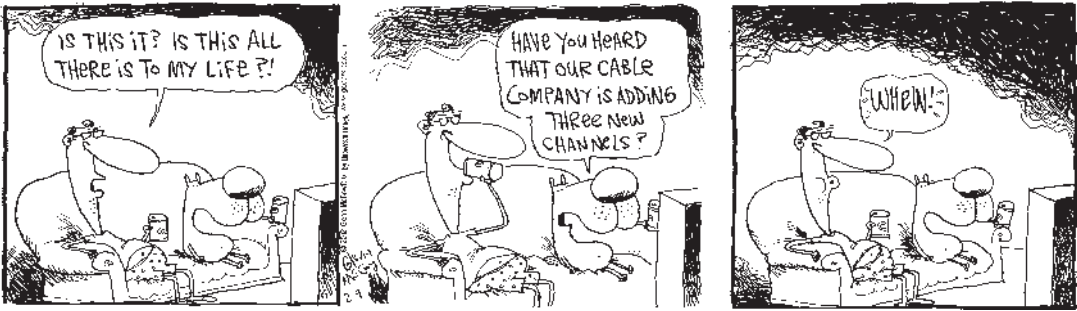
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Wok, e.g. 53 Illicit 9 Leaves in  
1 Oil 36 Lariat stimulant, the lurch  
37 No for 10 Lithium-  
acronym longer short — battery  
5 Spring drinking 54 Storm 11 “CSI”  
mo. 40 KFC center evidence  
8 Hotel additive 55 Require 19 Hostel  
employee 41 Latest 21 See 12-  
12 21-Down informa- DOWN Across  
builder tion 1 Respon- 23 Laughing  
13 Witness 45 “The sibility critter  
14 Black, Naked 2 Harbor 24 Rainbow  
in Maja” 3 Uncom- 25 Director  
verse painter plicated Premin-  
15 — Minor 47 Kimono 4 Soft, ger  
16 De- sash 26 Palm  
pressed 49 Apollo leather starch  
17 Carvey 11’s goal 5 Plus 27 Small  
or 50 Once, 6 Pod songbird  
Delany once 28 February  
18 Thwart 51 Greek 7 Beef, birthstone  
20 Primary conso- e.g. 32 Mandible  
22 Donna nants 8 TV, news- 33 Sleep-  
Summer papers, inducing  
hit to etc. visitor  
26 Suitor 35 Apiece  
29 Tibetan 36 Prune  
beast  
30 Table 38 Moor  
scrap 39 False  
31 Weap- front  
onry 42 Top-notch  
32 Lustrous 43 Carry  
black 44 Oklaho-  
33 Fit of ma city  
peevis- 45 Jewel  
ness 46 Raw  
34 “Golly!” rock  
48 Purchase

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 2-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyson Houseman, 22; Mia Farrow, 67; Joe Pesci, 69; Carole King, 70.

Happy Birthday: Take a practical approach to whatever you do. Working toward perfection and sticking to decisions that are considerate of others will lead to success. Moderation may be required, but if you utilize your skills and assets strategically, you will surpass any competition you face. Thoughts must lead to action. Your numbers are 3, 11, 20, 26, 38, 41, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Forget about personal issues and strive for perfection at work and when dealing with your peers. Encounters you have with people who share your interests and goals will bring beneficial results and a greater realization regarding what’s important to you. \*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Knowledge gained through personal experience will benefit you when dealing with peers, employers and authority figures. The uncertainty of others can be to your advantage if you assess the situation and take action. \*\*\*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take the road less traveled and avoid anyone who is trying to bully or coerce you into being a follower. Greater stability will evolve from doing your own thing and following your heart. Change is good and will result in unexpected rewards. \*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Own your life. Make changes at home that suit your needs. A change regarding the people you associate with may be necessary in order to fol-

low the right path. Put greater effort into home, comfort and peace of mind. \*\*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make sure you know what you are talking about before you enter into a conversation with someone knowledgeable or influential at work. Your outlook will affect your position and can bring about an amazing opportunity, if handled respectfully. \*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It will be difficult to separate your true feelings from what you know must be done. Step back and rely on those you feel are best suited to do the right thing. In your current situation, keeping your distance can work to your advantage. \*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There will be secrets looming that can make a difference in the way you react to a personal situation or partnership. Wait and see what develops before you make a promise you might not want to keep. Love and romance are highlighted. \*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Size up your situation and make your next move. It’s vital that you act fast, but do what is best for you as well. Good fortune can be yours if you follow your heart and you are honest about the way you feel. \*\*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put love, home, family and whatever else is personally important to you first and foremost. Don’t let outsiders influence a decision that must be made conjointly with the insiders in your life. Emotional blackmail is apparent. \*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

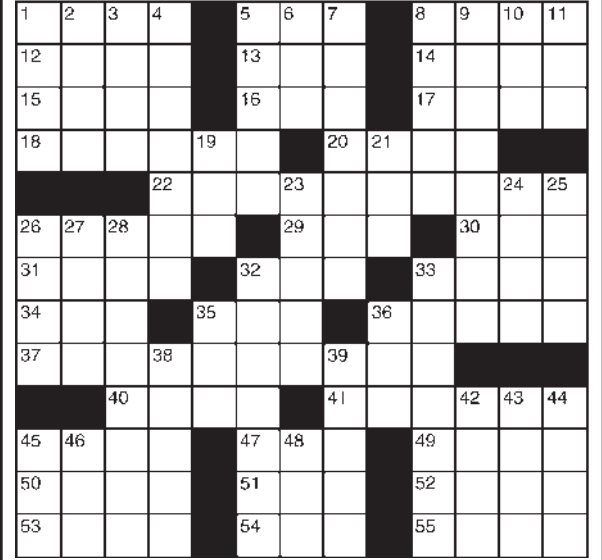
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You know what you have to do, and the sooner you make your move, the better. Own your situation and let your determination and courage deter anyone who might consider stepping in your way. A power play will prove effective. \*\*\*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Something you have to offer will bring help in return. Innovative solutions will be welcomed by someone in a tight spot or help you out when dealing with a financial discrepancy. A past partner can change your future. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don’t let confusion take over with regard to a current or past partnership. Consider what you can gain by keeping the peace or what you will eliminate by letting go. Make a choice and break the monotony. \*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are a perfectionist and a novel strategist. You are a dedicated loyalist.

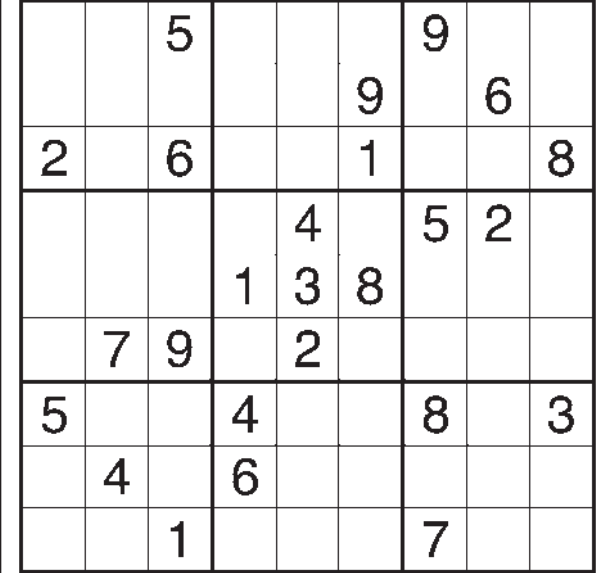
Eugenia’s Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia’s blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun



STUMPED? For answers to today’s crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/09

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday’s SUDOKU Answer

8	1	5	7	2	9	3	4	6
2	4	7	3	6	8	1	5	9
3	9	6	4	5	1	8	2	7
7	5	4	2	9	3	6	1	8
9	3	8	6	1	5	4	7	2
6	2	1	8	4	7	5	9	3
4	7	3	1	8	2	9	6	5
5	6	2	9	3	4	7	8	1
1	8	9	5	7	6	2	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/09

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PETS & RUGS Solution: 7 letters

P E R A U Q S E D E H S A W S  
R P L U S H M E X E K C O P P  
V I L L A O O O H N Z O R F O  
W S I M O A T M I C L I M A T  
Y I P R A I Q T E E N L S S S  
D O D T C T T U N G U I E T D  
O E S E A E S W I X A S H E S  
B P R N D P E N U L N M C N H  
H A I E U A E R S A T O O E O  
C R A N V S I S E H R O T D E  
T W T E S O A L T A T L T H S  
E I S P U R C L T R O G O T I  
R D E S G T N I L B Y L N P L  
T T E V L E V M E M E S H E K  
S H G N I E Y D E S I G N D L

©2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 2/9

Ashes, Bedroom, Body, Bolt, Clean, Coil, Cotton, Covered, Decorative, Depth, Design, Dyeing, Exotic, Fastened, Grass, Heel, Holes, Home, Inches, Knitted, Length, Lint, Looms, Luxurious, Mats, Mesh, Mills, Plus, Quilt, Settle, Shampoo, Shoes, Silk, Size, Smoke, Spots, Springiness, Spun, Square, Stairs, Steps, Stretch, Tapestry, Velvet, Villa, Washed, Weave, Wide, Width, Woolen, Wrap

Yesterday’s Answer: Boutonnere

SALES: Wonderword books, first paperback priced at \$9.95, the 4th fully illustrated paperback is now \$14.95. Hardcover \$24.95. All prices include shipping and handling. Order by mail to: Wonderword Books, P.O. Box 100, 1000 St. Michaels Ave., St. Michaels, MD 21158. Phone: 410-326-1111. Fax: 410-326-1112. E-mail: [info@wonderword.com](mailto:info@wonderword.com)



# CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO RENT

Looking for 2bedroom apartment/condo. Furnished. \$200–500 month. Utilities preferably in rent but not necessary. Email wgrow@vt.edu or call 286-1809.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cylinder, Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For \$200.00 /month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, newly renovated concrete hse & 1 bedroom, at lower Asteo. It has huge yard near the ocean. Yard cleaning & trash collection is included. Please contact 287-5877. Prices are negotiable.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Robert Tenorio Torres  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administratrix Rita R. Fitial

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:** } **Civil Action**  
**THE ESTATE OF:** } **No. 11-0171**  
**RAYMOND S. FITIAL,** }  
Decedent. }  
}

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION**

**Date:** February 16, 2012  
**Time:** 1:30pm  
**Judge:** Honorable Robert C. Naraja

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE RAYMOND S. FITIAL:

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that **Rita R. Fitial**, Administratrix of the Estate of Raymond S. Fitial, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution. The attorney for Administratrix is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the 16th day of February, 2012 at 1:30pm at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2012.

Clerk of Court  
/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution:  
Kick in the pants

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

**VALLEY OF GLORY INVESTMENT (USA) CORPORATION**

**Job Vacancy Announcement**

<b>1-General Manager</b>	College Graduate. 10 years work experience. Knowledge in managing more than 20 employees. Chinese speaking preferred.
<b>6-Operation Manager</b>	College Graduate. 5+ years work experience. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Chinese Language. Knowledge in Korean and Japanese language is a plus. Basic Computer skill required.
<b>6-Branch Manager</b>	College Graduate. 5+ years work experience. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Chinese Language. Basic Computer skill required.
<b>6-Assistant Manager</b>	3 years work experience. Must fulfill jobs assigned from Managers. Basic Computer skill required. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Chinese Language.

Interested applicants may send resume to PMB 62 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950

**VALLEY OF GLORY INVESTMENT (USA) CORPORATION**

**Job Vacancy Announcement**

**6-General Maintenance**  
3 years working experience. Must be able to speak Chinese. Knowledge in Korean and English language is a plus.

Interested applicants may send resume to PMB 62 Box 10003. Saipan, MP 96950

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$27</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$39</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$42</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$57</b>

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### WANTED: 1 Chief Accountant

Chief Accountant responsible for the oversight of all accounting functions, including inventory, invoicing and accounts receivable, fixed assets, accounts payable, payroll, and cost of production analysis. The successful applicant will also be responsible for the preparation of accurate monthly and annual financial reports. Position calls for extensive knowledge of computerized accounting software and functions. Ability to work as a team player in a fast paced atmosphere is required. Salary commensurate with experience.

#### Qualifications

- CPA designation with a minimum of 5 years manufacturing accounting experience.
- Familiarity with Peachtree Premium accounting software.
- Demonstrated understanding of cost accounting principles.
- Demonstrated understanding of integrated perpetual inventory accounting concepts.
- Demonstrated understanding of computerized payroll accounting systems.
- Ability to prepare monthly work papers to for the purpose of adjusting general ledger for accurate and timely financial statement preparation
- Demonstrated understanding of MS Excel integrated modeling concepts for the preparation of trend and "what if" analyses.
- Staff management experience.

#### Deliverables

- Assume responsibility of accounting staff consisting of accounts receivable accountant, cost accountant, accounts payable, and inventory accountant, to ensure that work is performed in an accurate and timely manner.
- Assume responsibility for the biweekly processing of payroll.
- Maintain and amortize prepaid expenses.
- Supervise monthly physical inventory count and pricing, ensuring a proper cutoff.
- Prepare monthly work papers to show the correct month-end balances for assets and liabilities, the appropriate accruals and general journal entries.
- Assemble and organize the work papers for review by the Controller.
- Prepare monthly financial statements along with graphical representation of sales and analytical review commentary of significant changes in sales, cost of operations and expenses.

Please submit your resume and other related documents at the accounting office of:

Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.  
Tun Herman Pan Rd., Airport Rd.  
Saipan MP 96950

No phone calls please.



Subscribe to the CNMI's  
First Daily Newspaper  
Call 235- NEWS

# WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

# KNICKERS

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

WHATZIT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com  
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in classified section



# Giants lauded as Super Bowl champs in NYC parade



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Eli Manning hoisted the Lombardi Trophy from a glittering blue-and-white float, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg joked that New York City should now be nicknamed the “Big Blue Apple,” as thousands of fans crowded lower Manhattan on Tuesday to celebrate the New York Giants’ Super Bowl victory amid tons of confetti.

The parade set off from the southern tip of Manhattan and rolled slowly north to City Hall, past fans dressed head to toe in red, blue and white Giants gear, with confetti wafting slowly from the high-rises lining Broadway.

Manning, the Super Bowl MVP, joined by coach Tom Coughlin, Bloomberg, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and other teammates, waved and grinned from the float as a deep roar rose from the crowds.

Defensive end Justin Tuck said he was glad to be part of the team, leading its defense and sacking New England quarterback Tom Brady twice during the 21-17 victory over the Patriots.

“We made it here by believing in each other. We believe in every guy on this team,” he said later during a ceremony at City Hall Plaza. “Honestly, we wouldn’t be here today without your support.”

The team was introduced with thunderous applause from the thousands of fans outside the City Hall gates. A lucky 250 fans received tickets to the fete, where the Giants were honored with symbolic keys to the city.

The crowd went wild for running back Ahmed Bradshaw, who plopped down in the end zone Sunday to score the winning touchdown. Wide receiver Victor Cruz did his trademark salsa moves as he accepted his key.

Manning joked about the team’s fourth-quarter comebacks. “Make it tough but make it possible,” he said, laughing



New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy during a ceremony for the NFL football Super Bowl XLVI champions at City Hall in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012.

about how the team blew an early lead to come back and win. The Giants had eight fourth-quarter comebacks to win games during the season.

“Finish games, finish fourth quarters and finish the season strong. That’s what we did,” Manning said.

Coughlin said the Giants were successful because they never gave up.

“The key thing was to remember this: All things are possible

for those who believe,” Coughlin said. “We always believed.”

Some fans had waited since 6 a.m. to catch a glimpse of their favorite players. About half of a Long Island high school class skipped school to see “a whole nation coming together in one place—this parade,” said Mike King, 16, of Wantagh.

King and seven school friends got up at dawn, arriving by subway in lower Manhattan to join the crowds packed behind po-

lice barricades. He attributed the win to Manning’s stellar performance and the hold-your-breath catch by Mario Manningham that led to the game-winning drive.

Frank Capogrosso, 11, from Staten Island, leaned against a barricade at the beginning of the parade route with his dad and best friend.

“This is better than TV. I love the cop cars, the toilet paper and the ecstatic fans,” he said. “I

love the Giants. I love their style. They play, they don’t talk.”

The parade for the Super Bowl champions could bring the city as much as \$38 million, depending on the number of spectators, Bloomberg said. As many as 1 million people were expected—about a third of them from outside New York.

After the parade, the team traveled to New Jersey for an afternoon rally at their home turf, MetLife Stadium. Tens of thousands of fans roared as the team walked onto the field in East Rutherford, making it feel like a regular Sunday game for Big Blue.

Some fans even got to touch a piece of history when Giants running back Brandon Jacobs capped the boisterous celebration by taking the Lombardi Trophy and walking it around the stadium to give delirious fans in the lower rows a chance to lean over and put their hands on it. It was an impromptu moment that fit the mood of the afternoon.

It’s the second Super Bowl championship parade for the Giants in four years. They beat the Patriots in the NFL title game in 2008.

Bloomberg asked the crowd: “Are you feeling deja blue all over again?” referring to the team’s 2008 win. Fans cheered.

Workers in high-rises tossed confetti—and later entire pieces of papers—from their windows.

Jun Kim, 28, a Korean linguist at the law firm Kenyon & Kenyon, reserved his biggest batch for Manning. “You are a star!” he yelled as the quarterback passed by. “People thought he would crumble under pressure, but he didn’t. He’s the best.”

And once, so were four former Giants players who all starred in past Super Bowls and joined Kim on the 11th floor of Number One Broadway, watching from a balcony “with the best bird’s-eye view of the parade,” said managing partner Michael Loughnane.

Howard Cross, a onetime Giants tight end, said he only caught a few seconds of the pa-

rade from the drop-dead height because “I’m scared - I don’t lean over edges!”

Three other former Giants were also at the confetti fest in the 19th century building: Otis Anderson, George Martin and Sean Landetta.

Just moments after the parade passed around noon, a lineup of sanitation plows scraped their way up Broadway, pushing mounds of confetti - some as high as 5 feet.

Fans stood on sidewalks ankle deep in the paper that was later sucked up by sanitation workers armed with hand-held vacuums.

Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty said he expected about 40 tons of paper to be thrown. That’s a lot but not one for the record books: The city threw 5,438 tons of ticker tape on returning veterans at the end of World War II in 1945.

The actual ticker tape from those days has been replaced by recycled paper that’s shredded into confetti. About 34 tons of paper were cleaned up after the Giants’ 2008 parade.

Mindy Forman, 53, of Yorktown, was one of the lucky few who scored a ticket to the festivities at City Hall. She said the win was a much-needed victory at a time when many could use some cheering up. She counted herself among that group: She was laid off two weeks ago from her job as a college administrator.

“It celebrates New York,” she said. “It celebrates the city. It celebrates the state. And it gives people something to believe in in very hard times.”

New York has feted its public heroes since 1919, with the first parade for World War I General John Pershing and his victorious troops.

They were followed by more than 200 parades honoring such people as aviator Charles Lindbergh, scientist Albert Einstein, Pope John Paul, South African leader Nelson Mandela and pianist Van Cliburn. Their names are chiseled into the Broadway sidewalks.



**OWINGSMILLS, Md.** (AP)—Ricky Williams is retiring from the NFL.

Again.

This time, however, it appears to be for good.

The 34-year-old Williams told the Baltimore Ravens on Tuesday he won’t be back to fulfill the second year of a contract he signed in August. Playing as a backup to Ray Rice this year, Williams ran for 444 yards and scored two touchdowns.

He also became the 26th player in NFL history to reach 10,000 yards rushing, reaching the plateau in the season finale at Cincinnati.

“The NFL has been an amazing page in this chapter of my life,” Williams said. “I pray that all successive adventures offer me the same potential for

## Ricky Williams says he’s retiring from NFL

growth, success and most importantly, fun. ... As for what’s next, I am excited about all the opportunities ahead - continuing my education, running The Ricky Williams Foundation and whatever other opportunities present themselves.”

Williams retired previously before the 2004 season when facing a four-game suspension for violating the league’s drug policy. He returned in 2005, then left to spend the 2006 season with Toronto of the Canadian Football League.

After an outstanding college career at Texas, where he won the Heisman Trophy, Williams broke into the NFL in 1999 with the New Orleans Saints. Mike Ditka, then coach of the Saints,

traded all the team’s draft and first- and third-round picks in 2000 to pick Williams fifth overall.

Williams spent only three years with New Orleans, but during over 11 years in the league he had five 1,000-yard rushing seasons and finished with 10,009 yards on the ground.

Williams led the NFL in 2002 with 1,853 yards rushing for the Miami Dolphins and received his lone Pro Bowl invitation that season. He backed that up with 1,372 yards in 2003, giving him what remains the two most productive rushing seasons in Dolphins history.

Although Williams’ last start was in 2009, he enjoyed coming off the bench for the Ravens.

“It’s been interesting,” he said in November. “It’s been an adjustment for me, but I love the organization and I love my teammates so I’m having a good time. I’m enjoying myself. Anytime you play a team sport, the success of the team really makes everything better. It’s nice.”

Baltimore went 12-4 this season and lost to New England in the AFC championship game.

During that November interview, Williams was asked whether playing as a backup could possibly extend his career.

“At this point, my focus is just to finish my career strong,” he said. “I’m not even thinking two or three years down the line. But one positive about not carrying the ball is my body does

feel good.”

Williams scored 73 touchdowns over his career, all but eight of them on the ground. His last score came on Dec. 4 against Cleveland.

“I have to thank coach (John) Harbaugh and the Ravens organization for the opportunity they gave me this year,” Williams said. “I had so much fun and really appreciated the chance to finish on such a great note.”

Williams fit in well with the Ravens and made a lasting impression on Rice, who led the NFL this season with 2,068 yards from scrimmage.

“I was a big fan of Ricky before we were teammates, but being around him this year is the best thing that happened to me in

my NFL career,” Rice said. “As a young player, you need to be around a guy who knows what he is doing, and Ricky was tremendous to learn from. The way he took care of his body and the way he prepared, he always showed that he is a true professional. This past season with him is a year I will never forget.

“I had the best year with him beside me, and that was no accident. I believe that Ricky Williams is a Hall of Famer. All that he has done in his career, he deserves that.”

Harbaugh said during his time in Baltimore, Williams “made a valuable and lasting contribution. I especially enjoyed getting to know him as a person, and I have the utmost respect for him.

“He was great to be around and to work with every single day.”



# Wade's 26 helps Heat top Cavs, 107-91

**MIAMI (AP)**—Dwyane Wade scored 26 points, LeBron James added 24 against his former team and the Miami Heat tuned up for a long road trip by beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 107-91 on Tuesday night.

Chris Bosh finished with 15 points for the Heat, who have won 11 of their last 13 games. Mario Chalmers and Udonis Haslem each scored 14 for Miami, which starts a stretch of five road games in seven nights at Orlando on Wednesday, then caps the trip with a visit to Cleveland on Feb. 17.

Antawn Jamison scored 25 points and had nine rebounds for Cleveland, which got 17 from Alonzo Gee, and 16 points, six rebounds and six assists from Kyrie Irving.

Anderson Varejao had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who were within a point late in the third and then missed 17 of their next 19 shots.

Miami's lead was only 73-72 before the Heat put together their best stretch of the night, with Wade making consecutive baskets to push the lead out to 92-78 midway through the fourth. Wade crossed his dribble over and sealed it with a down-the-lane dunk with just under 2 minutes left, and the Cavs emptied the bench moments later.

Facing a number of injury issues, Cleveland had only 11 players in uniform for the game. Daniel Gibson (neck infection), Tristan Thompson (sprained left ankle) and Anthony Parker (strained lower back) were not with the club, and earlier this week the team waived Mychel Thompson—who had started the Cavs' last three games and scored six points in their win over Dallas on Saturday.

Gibson practiced Monday, then felt some discomfort afterward and did not accompany the team to Miami. Cavs coach Byron Scott does not believe Gibson will be sidelined much longer.

"We felt it wasn't quite in his best interest for him to fly," Scott said. "We've got a stretch of home games coming up. ... We feel pretty comfortable that he's going to be able to play pretty soon."

Short-handed or not, the Cavs gave the Heat all they wanted—just as they did in Miami two weeks ago.

Jamison had 20 points in the first half, his best opening half since



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) goes to the basket against Cleveland Cavaliers' Alonzo Gee (33) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012.

March 6, 2010. And whenever it seemed like Miami was about to take off on a run, like when it had a quick 15-8 lead early or a 43-33 edge midway through the second quarter, Cleveland had an answer.

That trend continued in the third.

An 18-9 run by the Cavs to open the second half gave them a 66-63 edge, before the Heat put together a pair of quick bursts—dunks by James punctuating both. He capped a 9-2 run by catching a long pass from Haslem in transition for a five-point lead, and after Cleveland clawed back within one, Chalmers hit a 3-pointer and James followed a missed layup by Battier with a one-handed slam for a 78-72 edge entering the fourth.

With that, Miami had apparently taken Cleveland's best shot.

Starting with that mini-flurry by Miami to close the third, the Cavaliers were outscored 19-6 over an

8-minute span. Wade made back-to-back hoops to give Miami what was its biggest lead at 92-78 midway through the fourth.

## Pacers 104, Jazz 99

In Indianapolis, Indiana's Danny Granger scored 12 of his 16 points in a tightly contested fourth quarter, helping the Pacers to a win over Utah Jazz.

Indiana led by seven points at the start of the last quarter before the Jazz scored eight straight to take a lead, but they were overtaken again by the hosts.

Darren Collison had 25 points, shooting 10 of 14 from the floor for the Pacers, and added five assists.

Paul Millsap had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz.

## Thunder 119, Warriors 116

In Oakland, Kevin Durant hit a go-ahead bank shot with 14.2 seconds

remaining, and the NBA-leading Oklahoma City clung on to edge Golden State.

Durant finished with 33 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Russell Westbrook added 31 points and seven rebounds for the Thunder, who survived another thriller a night after beating Portland in overtime.

Monta Ellis scored a career-high 48 points for the Warriors while David Lee had 25 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his second career triple-double. However both Ellis and Brandon Rush both missed 3-pointers in the closing seconds to tie or take the lead.

## Timberwolves 86, Kings 84

In Minneapolis, Nikola Pekovic had 23 points and 10 rebounds to lead Minnesota to a narrow win over Sacramento, just squeaking past modest opposition in the first game without the suspended Kevin Love.

Michael Beasley added 17 points and 14 boards for the Timberwolves, who notched a third straight win.

DeMarcus Cousins had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings while battling foul trouble for most of the game.

## Suns 107, Bucks 105

In Milwaukee, Steve Nash hit a driving layup with 5 seconds left to give Phoenix victory over Milwaukee.

Michael Redd scored 14 points and came away with a win against his former team, but it wasn't easy. The Suns blew a big lead in the second half and had to scrap at the end to get their third straight win.

Drew Gooden scored a season-high 25 for the Bucks, who have lost three straight.

## Celtics 94, Bobcats 84

In Boston, Paul Pierce passed Larry Bird for No. 2 on the Celtics' career scoring list as Boston downed lowly Charlotte and increased its winning streak to five.

Pierce hit a 3-points in the third quarter to pass Bird's total of 21,791. He nearly celebrated the milestone with a triple-double, coming up just short with 15 points, nine assists and eight rebounds.

Rajon Rondo added 14 assists and 10 points for the Celtics.

Reggie Williams scored 21 for the Bobcats, who were competitive but still lost their 12th straight.

# Contador may still appeal doping ban, won't retire



**MADRID (AP)**—Alberto Contador vowed Tuesday to return to the pinnacle of cycling, maintaining his innocence in the face of a two-year doping ban that stripped the Spanish star of his 2010 Tour de France title.

He said his lawyers are considering whether to appeal the ban handed down by sport's highest court and insisted that even if the punishment stands he will return to challenge for more Tour titles.

The penalty is retroactive and will expire in August.

"I'm sure of one thing: I want to come back to ride the best races," Contador said at a news conference, making in his first comments since Monday's verdict ended an 18-month doping investigation that again highlighted cycling's long-standing problem with banned substances.

Contador had previously hinted that he might quit if banned for testing positive for clenbuterol on his way to winning a third Tour title in 2010.

The Spaniard had based his defense on a bad steak, saying he must have digested the clenbuterol—a banned anabolic agent—by eating contaminated meat that his team imported from Spain during the Tour.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport didn't accept that scenario, saying it was more likely that it came from a food supplement.

"Something doesn't work with the system," Contador said at a crowded news conference in his native Pinto, on the outskirts of Madrid. "My lawyers and I will fight as far as we need to demonstrate my innocence."

Contador said his legal team are examining whether to appeal to Switzerland's supreme court, which is the only body he can still turn to in hopes of being exonerated.

"I've tried everything to understand this ruling, but I cannot. I cannot understand this ban they have handed me," said Contador, who underwent a lie-detector test during the doping investigation. "If there is anything else I can do to prove my innocence I'd like to know."

Contador said the ordeal has left him disillusioned with the sport and he would never recommend professional cycling to anyone.

"The only satisfaction I feel is that whatever decision was reached, the ruling never says I doped," Contador said during a 50-minute news conference that was often interrupted by rounds of applause and yells of "Contador" from supportive locals. "There was never an intention on my part."

Contador would not comment on his financial situation, with the International Cycling Union looking to fine him \$3.25 million. His Saxo Bank-SunGard team boss Bjarne Riis said Tuesday that Contador would not be paid if he is not racing.

Contador, who tested positive during a rest day at the 2010 Tour, will be stripped of the results from his races since Jan. 25, 2011—the day the Spanish federation proposed a one-year ban, which was squashed through appeal before being taken by the UCI and WADA to CAS. That includes his Giro d'Italia victory last season.

"They can take those two years and fine me but they can never take away my victories," Contador said.

Contador is banned from riding until Aug. 6 and will miss this year's Tour, Giro d'Italia and Olympics in London. He did not say whether he will line up for the Spanish Vuelta, which starts on Aug. 18.

Riis said the team's trust in Contador was "100 percent intact," but Contador's future with the Danish team remains vague.

"August is still a long time (away). If he wishes to continue with the team, our intention is the same," Riis said. "I would have no problem working with Alberto again. I have not seen a bike rider like him in many, many years, probably not since (Eddy) Merckx."

Contador and Merckx are among only five cyclists to have won all three of cycling's major events during their career. Contador also won the Tour in 2007 and '09, and took the Giro and Spanish Vuelta in 2008.

# Source: Rangers and Andrus agree to 3-year deal



**F O R T W O R T H , T E X A S (AP)**—Shortstop Elvis Andrus and the Texas Rangers have agreed to a three-year contract and avoided salary arbitration.

A person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Tuesday night that the contract runs through the 2014 season. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was pending a physical and hadn't been finalized.

The agreement came two days before a scheduled arbitration hearing.

The 23-year-old Andrus is a .271 career hitter with 102 stolen bases

and has played at least 145 games in each of his three seasons for the Rangers. The new deal will take Andrus through his final three arbitration-eligible seasons.

Andrus hit a career-best .279 with 37 stolen bases last year when the Rangers won their second consecutive American League pennant. He had asked for \$3.6 million in arbitration and was offered \$2.65 million for next season before agreeing to a multiyear deal with Texas.

The Rangers still are in talks with catcher Mike Napoli and outfielder Nelson Cruz, who have salary arbitration hearings scheduled next week.

Cruz, whose eight postseason

homers last year included six in the AL championship series with a game-ending grand slam in Game 2, asked for \$7.5 million while the Rangers offered \$5.5 million. He made \$3.65 million last year, when he hit .263 with 29 homers and 87 RBIs in 124 games.

Napoli set career highs by hitting .320 with 30 homers and 75 RBIs in 113 games in his first season with Texas, when he made \$5.8 million after spending his first five seasons with the Los Angeles Angels. He asked for \$11.5 million, and Texas offered \$8.3 million.

Andrus was among several key players the Rangers got from At-

lanta in a July 2007 trade for Mark Teixeira after the switch-hitting first baseman turned down a contract extension.

Hard-throwing closer Neftali Feliz, who is making the transition into the rotation this spring, and left-hander Matt Harrison (14-9, 3.39 ERA last season) were also part of that deal.

Andrus made his major league debut in the 2009 season opener after the Rangers moved five-time All-Star shortstop Michael Young to third base for the shortstop who was then only 20 years old and had never played above the Double-A level.



## Santa Remedios Church golf fundraiser on March 24

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Santa Remedios Parish Pastoral Council is set to hold its fundraising golf tournament on March 24 at the Marianas Country Club.

Show time is set for 6:30am with a 7am tee off with the Top 3 finishers taking home trophies and special prize packages.

First place also receives a \$100 cash prize, the runner-up will be awarded \$75, and third place wins \$50.

A multitude of raffle prizes

will also be up for grabs.

Proceeds of the event will go toward renovations and maintenance repairs for the Santa Remedios Church, which is located in Tanapag.

The church's pastoral council is requesting local golf organizations to please mark their calendars reserve the weekend for their cause.

All local golfers are invited to come out and help support the church.

The entrance to participate is \$100 per person and \$90 for early birds that register by Wednesday, March 14.

Some of the major improvements needed at the Santa Re-

medios Church include landscaping the surrounding area to improve its ambience, increasing the spaces available in the parking lot, renovations to the front entrance to enable easy access for the hearst during funeral services, renovations to the front walkway to integrate a portico structure to the church, and construction of an outdoor chapel in the cemetery that provides shelter during outdoor services.

For more information, or to register, contact tournament coordinator Pete Igitol at 322-7554, pastoral council president Bill Li-eto at 287-9459, or parish administrator Art Stoaia at 322-7254.

## Free paddling clinic on Feb. 18

The Hoe Lokahi Outrigger Club clinic is hosting a free paddling clinic on Feb. 18 starting 9am at Kilili Beach.

The purpose of the clinic is to promote the group's recruitment efforts.

Event organizers will go over

the history of paddling, introduce the different parts of an outrigger canoe, and explain proper canoeing etiquette with the participants before heading out into the water.

The clinic is open to the public and can be beneficial for both ex-

perienced and beginner paddlers.

The activity can be used as good practice for experienced paddlers who want to brush up on their stroke, while beginners will get an opportunity to learn from the Hoe Lokahi coaches.

Additional membership information will also be made available. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

## NMIFA

From Page 28

CNMI will have a pool of goalkeepers, which the former will train on a regular basis. Noetzel also said the pool will have players in various age groups and adults, too.

"With Johann working with us, we hope that we could en-

courage more players, especially the youth, to try playing as goalies so by the time we get to select members of our national teams, we will have a deep pool and several chooses. For now, we have only a few good goalies and we can't just choose one who plays other position to switch spot," Tan said.

The NMIFA president explained that not so many youths

are interested in becoming a goalie, but if they will find out that there's someone who can teach them the proper skills, they will be motivated to play the underrated position.

"Soccer before was for attackers, for those who can hit the ball hard. But today, goalies are not for defensives purposes only, they also lead the team's counter-attack. They are key

## EAGLES

From Page 28

GCA fought back and hung around in the second quarter.

Its defense contained the Dolphins to just nine points as they crawled back to within three possessions, 24-31, at halftime. GCA's Angelo Salas led the charge with six markers in the period.

MHS came out of the locker room with a vengeance, however, and raised the wager, 57-39, in the third quarter.

Suarez added six more points in the push, while Darag and Erick Dela Rosa chipped in with a handful apiece.

GCA's Kemner Sugue managed six points, but Salas, the Eagles' captain, was held to just four checks in the pivotal period.

MHS held a comfortable lead in the last quarter and coasted to the easy win.

MHS' Dela Rosa easily tallied five blocks in the final period alone, while Dolphins captain Ezra Caro played solid defense down in the trenches almost the whole game and finished with a

team-high 20 points. The pair did a good job racking up rebounds, limiting Salas and the Eagles' second chance opportunities.

GCA's Salas was all over the court, but was held to 15 in the losing effort.

In the junior varsity pairing both teams started cold, but MHS managed a slim 6-4 edge after the first quarter. Junior Dolphins' Jeron Ano stepped up with a couple of buckets early in the game.

The action picked up a bit in the next frame as MHS built a 17-10 margin at the pause. MHS spread the ball around and

## KHS clips MHS2 in girls soccer, 1-0



A Kagman High School defender, left, clashes with a Marianas High School junior varsity midfielder in this file photo from the teams' first MISO girls soccer match held back in mid-January at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Kagman High School Lady Varsity

Ayuyus outlasted the Marianas High School Junior Dolphins, 1-0, in Tuesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls soccer match at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

After a scoreless opening

half, the Lady Dolphins kept pace with the Lady Ayuyus until only 15 minutes were left into the second half. That's when KHS senior Eloise Lotoc found the back of the net in the 48th minute of the match.

MHS held off the Lady Ayuyus for the remainder of the contest, but could not manage a goal to force overtime.

The end result improved KHS' record to a pair of wins with two losses and a draw, while winless MHS2 endured its fifth straight loss.

The season continues today at the Oleai field at 4:30pm when MHS' undefeated varsity squad (MHS1) takes on the Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays (2-1-1); MHS1 boasts a perfect card of four wins.

figure on the team," Tan said.

Noetzel agreed, saying that he wants to remove the stigma associated with goalkeepers.

"People think that goalies are the laziest players in the field because they just hang around at the box, waiting for the ball. But they should not be. Goalies should be the fittest, fastest, and strongest players at the pitch. With this development program we will el-

evate the goalies' athleticism and skills to a high level," the 34-year-old Saipan Southern High School teacher said.

Noetzel added that becoming a goalie coach for the CNMI is a promise fulfilled.

"I was here in 2006 and left a few months when soccer was just starting in the CNMI. But I told my friends I will return and help out," he said.

Once the program is in place and gets stronger, Noetzel and Tan hope that the CNMI can produce goalies who can play in collegiate leagues.

"Good goalies have better chances of getting college scholarships than the regular players. A good goalie is rare. Top teams in the European or MLS leagues almost always have good goalies," Tan said.

## AIM

From Page 28

notched two aces and added one kee for six points, while Jake Kapwich chipped in five after converting the lone goal in the game and scoring one ace. J.R. Gechig completed Aim Low's

scorers list with his two points off one kee.

Nick Gross was on target in Game 3 for the Teachers with his 12 markers off five kees and one ace. However, Gross had only Tyce Mister and John Nekaifes helping him out on offense. Nekaifes logged two kees, while Mister had one.

The Teachers and Aim Low's title series started last Monday with the latter escaping with an overtime win in Game 1, 46-38. Then in Game 2, the Teachers recovered, downing Aim Low after only three sets, 35-29, to tie the series.

Aim Low and the Teachers are among the 12 teams entered

in the Rocball fall league and made it to the first cut (composed of six teams). Then in the second round of the competition, the Teachers and Aim Low finished in the Top 2 to advance to the semis. In the short best-of-three semis se, both teams swept their foes to march into the finals.

in the boys 13's 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly and girls 9's 100m IM and 50m butterfly, respectively.

"Lukas Kang and Miku Tammy can go to the finals of the 100m IM if they will be able to swim as usual. Takumi's best time in the 50m freestyle is ranked among the Top 3 in the CNMI so he will do good in Japan," Hiro Kimura said.

"Overall, all our swimmers have a strong chance of advancing to the finals," he added.

## TSUNAMI

From Page 28

though it will be a tough challenge. We expect Ryuto to mark a record and get the championship in the freestyle," Hiro Kimura said.

As for Kensuke Kimura, who is entered in the boys 15's 100m IM and 50m breaststroke, the Tsunami Saipan coach hopes his son will advance to the finals this time after nearly making it

in 2010.

In 2010, Kensuke was just 0.5 of a second short of moving into the finals of the 100m IM as he clocked in at 1:07.81 for ninth place out of 51 participants. Only the Top 8 swimmers advanced to the finals.

"It's Kensuke final chance to make it to the finals or win the gold because he is 15 years old now," Hiro Kimura said.

Tan like Kensuke will be a returnee in the Tokyo Sprints. She joined the 100m IM (1:23.94)

and 50m breaststroke (42.60 seconds) in 2010 and will have the same events next month and aims to surpass her times.

Kang was supposed to debut in the Tokyo Sprints last year before the event was called off. This year, Lukas will finally have his first taste of competition in the annual tournament, as he races in the boys 9's 100m IM and 50m butterfly. Also debuting in the Tokyo meet are Sugie and Tammy, who are entered

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 31-24, 57-39, 81-53.

### JUNIOR VARSITY

MHS 54 - Kwon 10, Dai 9, DL Guerrero 6, Capuyon 5, Ano 4, Ogumoro 4, Sanerez 4, Floresca 3, Manalili 3, Aguilar 2, Lansang 2, Cudia 2.

GCA 22 - Smithee 7, Lee 6, Reyes 4, Del Rosario 3, Sugue 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-4, 17-10, 31-14, 54-22.

### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

#### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	7	.720	—
Boston	14	10	.583	3 1/2
New York	10	15	.400	8
New Jersey	8	18	.308	10 1/2
Toronto	8	18	.308	10 1/2

#### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	19	6	.760	—
Atlanta	16	9	.640	3
Orlando	15	10	.600	4
Washington	5	20	.200	14
Charlotte	3	22	.120	16

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	21	6	.778	—
Indiana	17	7	.708	2 1/2
Milwaukee	10	14	.417	9 1/2
Cleveland	9	14	.391	10
Detroit	6	20	.231	14 1/2

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	17	9	.654	—

Dallas	14	11	.560	2 1/2
Houston	14	11	.560	2 1/2
Memphis	12	13	.480	4 1/2
New Orleans	4	21	.160	12 1/2

#### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	20	5	.800	—
Denver	15	10	.600	5
Portland	14	11	.560	6
Utah	13	11	.542	6 1/2
Minnesota	13	12	.520	7

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	15	7	.682	—
L.A. Lakers	14	11	.560	2 1/2
Phoenix	11	14	.440	5 1/2
Golden State	8	14	.364	7
Sacramento	9	16	.360	7 1/2

#### Tuesday's Games

Indiana 104, Utah 99  
Boston 94, Charlotte 84  
Miami 107, Cleveland 91  
Minnesota 86, Sacramento 84  
Phoenix 107, Milwaukee 105  
Oklahoma City 119, Golden State 116

ASSOCIATED PRESS



# MP United at Club Challenge Guam 2012

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



MP United U15's Ryota Ito, left, stops the ball during a game against Guam's U15 National Team in the Club Challenge Guam 2012 at the Guam Football Association artificial turf in Harmon last weekend.



MP United FC's Sun Joon Tenorio kicks the ball into the net against two Wings defenders, but was called for an offside.



MP United U15's Enrico Del Rosario, right, battles a Guam player for possession.



MP United FC's Alex Park, left, fights for the ball against the Wings' Taira Kobori in their U12 match.



MP United U15's Jordan Butcher, right, kicks the ball.



MP United U15's Kennedy Izuka, right, deflects a shot.



MP United U15's Jehn Joyner chases the ball.



MP United U15's Jake Lee fights to retain possession.



MP United U12's Bada Lee tries to go for a save.

**Activity Schedule for February 9, 2012**

NMBA Gym will be temporarily closed due to the installation of taraflex flooring. The renovation of the badminton courts will be completed by February 12, 2012. For the meantime, members and players will be using the Gillette Multipurpose Gym for badminton practices starting February 1, 2012.

**Northern Marianas Badminton Association**  
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Morning practices)  
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Evening practices)

**2012 Men's B Futsal League**  
There are no games scheduled for today. Games will resume on Monday, February 13, 2012.





**Giants lauded  
as Super Bowl  
champs in  
NYC parade**

24

# Saipan Tribune Sports

28 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012

**Wade's 26 helps  
Heat top Cavs,  
107-91**



25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## NMIFA signs former MLS goalie



Former Major League Soccer player Johann Noetzel, center, poses with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan and general secretary Ed Salas for a group photo yesterday at the NMIFA office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**N**orthern Mariana Islands Football Association has acquired the services of a former Major League Soccer player to spearhead NMIFA's goalie development program.

## Eagles get Dolphins' wrath, 79-53

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



After absorbing a tough loss to a rejuvenated Kagman High School Ayuyu (3-1) varsity squad last week, the Marianas High School Dolphins bounced back with a resounding 79-53 victory over the Grace Christian Academy Eagles as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys basketball season continued last Monday at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS improved its win-loss card to 4-1, while GCA fell to a 1-4 slate.

Meanwhile, MHS' Junior Dolphins rolled over GCA's Junior Eagles, 54-22, in the junior varsity pairing and improved its record to 4-0. The Junior Eagles, meanwhile, fell to an even 2-2 card.

GCA played a home draw against Saipan Southern High School's Manta Rays (4-1) last night; details of that match and the junior varsity game will be released tomorrow. SSSHS' Junior Manta Rays hold a stout 3-1 record.

Notably, there will be no games tomorrow in light of the Public School System's Stem Fair.

In the varsity tiff, MHS built an early 22-12 advantage in the opening 10 minutes as John Darag and Daryl Suarez teamed up for 11 points.

**RELATED NEWS**  
KHS clips MHS2 in girls soccer, 1-0  
**PAGE 26**



Marianas High School's Toon Lee slashes through the lane in Monday's MISO boys basketball matchup against Grace Christian Academy held at the MHS Gymnasium.

See EAGLES on Page 26

NMIFA president Jerry Tan, in yesterday's press briefing also attended by general secretary Ed Salas, introduced Johann Noetzel as the association's goalkeeper development training director.

"We are excited to announce that NMIFA will now have a goalkeeper coach, who will lead our year-long goalie development program. It's a big boost to our program, as soccer today regarded a goalie as a leader of the team and an extension of the coach. Having a coach specializing in goalkeeping will equip our players the proper techniques and skills in goalkeeping," Tan said.

"I am honored to be part of NMIFA and its program. I am up for the tough task ahead and looking forward for the support and cooperation of players, club officials, and parents. I hope to elevate the standard of goalkeeping in the CNMI," Noetzel.

Noetzel suited up for the Dallas Burn in the MLS in 2000 and also played for Aston Villa in the English Premier League. In the NCAA, he played for the five-time champion Seattle Pacific University and was named Pacific West Coast Conference Player of the Year and NCAA All-American in 1999. He was also selected to the U.S. National B Team and was part of the coaching staff of California State University (San Marcos). After retiring, the Seattle native founded the Shot Stoppers Goalkeeping Academy.

With Noetzel on board, Tan said the

See NMIFA on Page 26

## Aim Low nears Rocball championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Aim Low moved one win away from securing the championship in the 2011 Rocball Fall League after beating the Teachers in the crucial Game 3 of the best-of-three title series yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Game 4 will be played today with Aim Low eyeing to wrap up the series early and the Teachers hoping to extend the series to a winner-take-all Game 5 tomorrow.

Aim Low boosted its chances for the championship and take a 2-1 lead in the series after a 38-28 juiced-out win in Game 3. Aim Low nailed the important victory despite losing the first set, 10-13.

Down by three, Aim Low grabbed the upper hand, 25-18, as it won the second set by 10 points, 15-10. Then in the deciding third set, Aim Low picked up where it left off, drilling a 13-10 triumph for the series lead. Aim Low was awarded the juiced out win in Game 3, as it had the lead and won the third set, too.

## Eight Tsunami swimmers off to Tokyo Sprints



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center will send its biggest delegation yet to the 2012 Tokyo Junior Sprints.

The club, which sent a small group to the same tournament for three years (2008, 2009, and 2010) will be fielding eight swimmers for the competition that will be held on March 17 and 18 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tatsumi, Koto City. The list includes siblings Hiroto, Kaito, and Ryuto Yanai, Kensuke Kimura, Takumi Sugie, Lukas Kang, Angel Marie Tan, and Miku Tammy. Joining them are coaches Hiro Kimura and Shigeki Tenorio and Tsunami officials Yuko Kimura and Yoriko Sugie.

Hiroto and Ryuto will debut in the 25-meter pool contest, while Kaito will be competing in the event for the second time. Kaito won a gold medal in the 100m individual medley swim in 2010 and was scheduled to defend his title last year, but the tournament was cancelled as tsunami and earthquake rocked Japan.

Besides the 100m IM, Kaito will also swim in the boys 12's 50m breaststroke, while Hiroto will race in the boys 11's 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke events. Ryuto also has two events in the boys U8 division (50m freestyle and 50m butterfly).

"Kaito will go for the gold medal

See TSUNAMI on Page 26



Aim Low's J.R. Gechig returns to the Teachers during Game 1 of the Rocball title series last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

A.J. Aguilar was the heavy hitter for Aim Low with his eight points of two kees and two aces. Y.J. Nakayama also

See AIM on Page 26